

Israel urged to make concessions

Baker secures Arab backing for peace plan

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL came under unprecedented pressure last night to negotiate with its Arab neighbours for peace, after James Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrived in Jerusalem armed with fresh concessions from key Arab nations.

Mr Baker, displaying a confident style, went into talks with the country's right-wing leadership having secured concessions from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and most recently, the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The PLO dropped its insistence on attending a Middle East peace conference, accepting American proposals for delegates to represent Palestinian interests. The package of initiatives could, if successful, bring the parties to the negotiating table as early as this summer, and the prospects for peace in the troubled region appear better than at any time since the Camp David accords were signed between Israel and Egypt in 1978.

Although Mr Baker was reported to be feeling unwell,

he was still planning a short meeting with the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir last night. Mr Baker was set to make it abundantly clear to Israel that the Arab nations are willing to negotiate with the Jewish state for the first time and that he has come to the region with the backing of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, the members of the United Nations Security Council, the European Community and most importantly, President Bush's own determination to bring all the parties to the negotiating table.

Mr Baker's latest achievement yesterday came during lunchtime talks with King Hussein of Jordan in Amman, where the monarch said that his country would attend an American-brokered regional peace conference. "We are ready to attend a peace conference and we are very happy indeed that it is going to be a comprehensive one," said the king, who added that he hoped to see progress in the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to sit at the talks.

In addition to backing his peace proposals, which call for Israel and her neighbours to tackle the Arab-Israeli dispute and the Palestinian question, Mr Baker also brought his hosts an offer by the Arab states to lift their 43-year economic boycott of Israel in exchange for a freeze on the expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The speed of the Arab change in position can largely be attributed to Syria's decision last weekend to accept Mr Baker's peace plan, which was launched after the Gulf war, but failed to make any headway. However, having won Syria's support, Mr Baker yesterday faced the daunting task of trying to coax the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, into offering similar concessions by persuading Israel that the Arab states are serious

about peace. Mr Shamir is known to be concerned that if he halts progress, Israel will be singled out for blame by the international community at a time when the Jewish state badly needs foreign financial assistance to help absorb thousands of immigrants.

However, as Mr Baker went into the talks, the signals did not look encouraging with Israeli officials rejecting the boycott-settlement exchange and demanding to see the full text of President Assad of Syria's letter, which the Israeli leadership suspects contains clauses making Syrian participation in the talks conditional.

The prospects of negotiations have also ignited a potentially fatal debate within the government, over how far it should proceed along the path to negotiations which ultimately will lead to an exchange of land for peace. Mr Shamir has repeatedly stated that Israel will never withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, all captured during the six-day war of 1967.

Ariel Sharon, the hardline housing minister, yesterday made it clear that hawks in the party would not contemplate any territorial concessions and vowed that Jewish settlers, currently numbering about 100,000, would continue to colonise the West Bank for another century.

The suspicion among the Israeli right was highlighted yesterday in a march through the old city of Jerusalem by the Temple Mount Faithful, who were marking the fast of Tisha be'Av, the anniversary of the destruction of the First and Second Temples.

"I say to Baker you did not come here as a friend, you came as an enemy," said the group's leader, Gershon Solomon. "You came here to help them renew destruction of this country. Go back to America, you are not welcome here."

Arab concessions, page 9

500,000 warned to boil tap water

By A STAFF REPORTER

HALF A million people in northwest London, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire were warned to boil all tap water for the next three days after three million gallons of untreated water was released into household supplies.

Officials at Three Valleys Water Company said that drinking the water without boiling it could cause stomach upsets and affect the young and elderly more seriously.

Police toured streets with loud-hailers to warn of the contamination yesterday as an investigation started into the release of the untreated water. The Drinking Water Inspectorate will decide whether the water company should be prosecuted. A conviction for providing water unfit for consumption carries an unlimited fine, with up to two

Alert delayed, page 3



First family: Ian Baker-Finch, who won the 120th Open golf championship with a final round of 66 and a total of 272, eight under par, at Royal Birkdale yesterday, with his wife, Jenny, their daughter, Haley, and the famous, old, claret-jug trophy. Baker-Finch, aged 31, became the fourth Australian to win the Open, after Peter Thomson, Kel Nagle and Greg Norman and his victory was worth £90,000. Baker-Finch said: "I lost the Open in 1984 at St Andrews with a last round of 79 and I felt I let my country down. It has not been easy since then because there have been many times when I thought I was in control only to be knocked down. But I saw Bob Rotella, a sports psychologist, and he simplified things in my mind." The Open was watched by 189,435, a record for Royal Birkdale although not for the championship. A total of 208,680 attended the Open at St Andrews last year. Baker-Finch won by two shots from fellow Australian, Mike Harwood. Nick Faldo, the defending champion, finished nine strokes back. Reports, pages 35 and 36

'Wolf man' hunted after escape from Broadmoor

By DEAN NELSON

A MULTIPLE child rapist known as the "wolf man" was on the run last night after a daring escape from Broadmoor high-security hospital in Berkshire.

Police believe that James Saunders, aged 24, from Frome in Somerset, had planned his escape and spent several days sawing through the inch-thick iron bars on a shower-room window before making off with the help of a duvet cover knotted together with tablecloths. Staff were not sure how he got down from the window, which was 35ft from the ground, to the 22ft-high perimeter wall which he scrambled over.

Frank Carr, deputy director of nursing at the hospital, said that his most likely route had been to climb onto the roof of his third-floor ward and scramble around to the front of the hospital before dropping to ground and climbing over the wall.

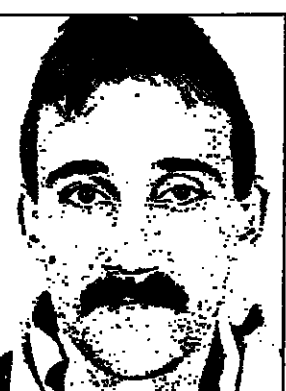
He said that staff and police were also considering the possibility that Saunders may have climbed straight down from his ward shower room window to the ground, before sneaking around the outside of the grounds to the perimeter fence on Upper Broadmoor Road.

Mr Carr said: "It is a very determined and successful attempt."

Broadmoor staff later found the discarded duvet on the roof of a building outside the perimeter wall. According to the police, Saunders then broke into a nearby scout hut and stole a two-man tent and two axes.

He was last sighted in the Sandhurst area about four miles from the hospital and police have warned residents that he is highly dangerous. They have been advised to keep all doors and windows locked. Police were last night

Continued on page 20, col 3



Saunders: "Determined and successful attempt"

'Bag switch' theory over Lockerbie bomb

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE BOMB which killed 203 people in the Pan Am jet disaster at Lockerbie may have been planted after "a bag switch" at Frankfurt airport, according to new information from a former member of the US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

Lester Coleman, aged 47, now in hiding abroad, told The Times that an investigator from the German BKA police had informed him in a telephone conversation that the BKA was seriously con-

cerned that a courier in a US government "sting" operation out of Cyprus may have been used to place the bomb on flight 103 in December 1988.

Mr Coleman has provided an affidavit to Pan Am which is facing billion-dollar compensation claims from the families of the Lockerbie victims. Pan Am is suing the US government alleging negligence.

Drugs sting, page 5

BCCI terrorist funding claimed

By MICHAEL EVANS AND RICHARD FORD

SECRET accounts held by the Bank of Credit & Commerce International might have been used to fund nuclear weapons programmes in Iraq and Pakistan, according to intelligence sources yesterday. Other accounts were used to finance terrorist operations.

Intelligence sources said that funding for Iraq's nuclear weapons programme, which has emerged as a vast clandestine operation, could be traced to BCCI accounts. It is believed that Pakistan's nuclear programme, which has developed significantly in recent years, has similar links to the bank.

It is believed that M15, Britain's security service, has been aware for more than a year of accounts held by the bank, which were "fronts" for known international terrorists. According to The Sunday Times yesterday, a joint BCCI/Price Waterhouse report sent to the Bank of England last January, disclosed that 42 accounts at BCCI's central London branches were controlled by Abu Nidal, the Palestinian terrorist leader, and several other terrorist organisations and arms dealers.

The Bank of England set up an investigation last year to examine the accounts allegedly used for terrorism and arms dealing.

The details of the bank's clandestine operations emerged as the government was under growing political pressure to provide MPs with more details over the role played by ministers, Whitehall and the Bank of England.

Labour, scenting a deepening scandal with the potential to damage the government and John Major, called for a statement from the prime minister over The Sunday Times allegations that the security services had issued a warning about the bank's terrorist links.

A statement from Neil Kinnock said: "The report is gravely disturbing, if it is accurate. If there is substance in it, it is essential that, subject to the interests of security against terrorist operations, the prime minister make a full statement to the House."

Bernard Levin, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15
Winding-up move, page 21

Spanish practices push up classic car costs

A multi-million pound boom in classic cars has been fuelled by faked pedigrees, report Sarah Jane Checkland and Michael Horsnell

When the former world racing champion Denny Hulme drove his McLaren M8D 4 to triumph in the 1970 Canadian-American championship it had four wheels and one engine.

Now it has eight wheels, two engines and two owners, both of whom consider their car is the original.

Worse confusion surrounds other models. Only 34 Maserati 250Fs were made, but there are 37 people convinced they own an original. A Bugatti expert said: "There must be at least 150 fake Grand Prix Bugattis around."

Later this year the High Court will be asked to decide if a Rolls-Royce sold by a London auction house to an American is a 1913 Silver Ghost worth over £400,000 or a 1922 version worth £80,000.

A 1969 McLaren M6GT was listed last year to have been sold for \$1,320,000 at an auction in California. In fact it did not sell and is being offered privately by the same owner. Whether done intentionally or not, recording an unsold item as sold helps to create a false market. The classic car world was left with the impression that the M6GT had sold for a high price.

"Spanish customs" practised in this field helped to accelerate a boom which has seen the price of some models rise by 1,000 per cent. The value of some Aston Martin DB6s, for example, rose from £10,000 in 1988 to £100,000 in 1989.

In the UK, trading standards officers regard classic car auctions as an ill-regulated jungle where the law proves to be ineffective.

Regulations here are far weaker than in the United States. Nevertheless, new Continued on page 24, col 1

Car racket, page 2

TODAY IN THE TIMES

DEBATING ABORTION

A letter to The Times from Dame Josephine Barnes and others has reopened the abortion debate. What is causing the big hold-up in the NHS? Page 12

NOVEL CANDIDATE

Richard Coombe's Fifties cold war novel, The Manchurian Candidate, is back in an updated stage version — with a new Nineties enemy Page 13

DIFFERENT STROKES

Gabriela Sabatini and the rest of the ladies are in Nottingham for a feast of women's team tennis in the Federation Cup Page 32

PRETORIA SCANDAL

Calls in South Africa for the resignation of Adrian Vlok, law and order minister, are mounting over government funding for a trade union linked to Inkatha Page 8

TEST FEARS

Doug McAvoy, the teachers' union head, has produced evidence that summer-born children are at a disadvantage in the tests for seven-year-olds Page 7

Arts	13-18
Births, marriages, deaths	16-17
Business	21-25
Classified	10, 11, 17-20
Court & social	16
Crosswords	17-20
Life and Times	12
Education	10, 11
Law Report	24
Leading articles	13
Letters	16
Obituaries	31-36
Sport	19
TV & radio	26-29
University results	26-29
Weather	20

Lady of the Lamp carried torch for a priest

From ERIC DOWD IN TORONTO



Florence: parents forbade her to marry her cousin

FLORENCE Nightingale had a secret lover, according to records of a small country church in Canada. Florence, the founder of modern nursing and "Lady of the Lamp" whose care saved many soldiers and brought comfort to others in the Crimean War, never married.

But the official history put out by the tiny Anglican Church of St John in Elora, Ontario, says that she and her cousin the Rev John Smithurst, priest there in the 1850s fell in love and wanted to marry. Their affair has come to light because two silver communion chalices which had a plaque saying they were donated by Florence Nightingale have been stolen from the church.

Florence's affair with Mr Smithurst is not mentioned in official biographies. The church's history was written in the

1930s by a local writer, now dead, and was based on interviews with parishioners, including a doctor who knew Mr Smithurst well, and on journals left by the parish priest.

The church history says that Florence and Mr Smithurst met and fell in love in Lea Hurst, a Derbyshire village of shortly after Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837. Florence's mother's name was Smith according to biographers who describe Florence as "graceful, witty and vividly good-looking".

Florence was only 17 and their parents forbade them to marry because they were first cousins. The "heartbroken", ever-obedient and religiously devout lovers vowed to dedicate themselves to serving humanity, the church history says. Mr Smithurst was ordained in the Church of England and went as a missionary among the Indians and

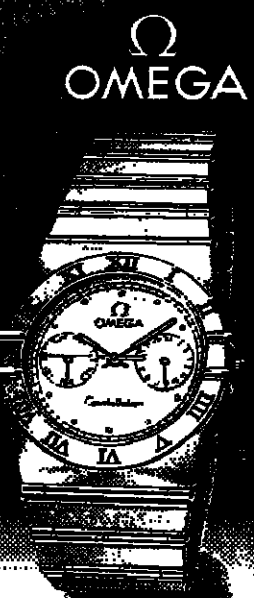
eskimos in Canada. Twelve years later he returned to England to ask Florence again to marry him.

But both families were still staunchly opposed and in 1852 Mr Smithurst, "disappointed and frustrated in love" returned to Canada and to the church Elora. His health deteriorated and he died in 1867. Florence went on to become a national heroine in Britain. She died in 1910 and never married — the church history says — "true to her promise to Smithurst".

The church's current parish priest Canon Robert Hulse said a church official told him he saw a letter from Florence Nightingale to the Ontario government in which he mentioned sending the silver chalices to Smithurst. Canon Hulse, 55 said many parishioners accept the story of Florence and John as true — "why would anyone concoct it?"

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When enthusiasts set out to buy classic cars, they may not be getting all that they bargained for

Silver Ghost lost nine years and £340,000 in value

FOR six years John Silberman, an American classic car enthusiast from Tampa, Florida, believed he was the proud owner of a 1913 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, which he bought from Coys of Kensington, the specialist dealer.

He intended to enter it for rallies and the investment appeared to be a good one, the value of the car rising from the £51,000 he paid in 1983 to an estimated £420,000 today.

What he did not know was that the car had already been the subject of legal action involving Coys. The dealer had agreed to take it back from a British enthusiast who had bought it in 1981, after a Rolls-Royce expert strongly disputed its authenticity.

It was not until 1989 when Mr Silberman tried to sell the vehicle himself, to the English collector W.H. Wood of Chesham, in Hertfordshire, that he discovered from the same expert that the car's pedigree was dubious and that it was believed to be a F series Silver Ghost, built in 1922.

According to experts, the car had apparently been worth only £20,000 when Mr Silberman bought it and today it is valued at no more than £80,000. The parts dating from before the first world war are allegedly limited to the carburettor, coil, air pump, fuel and oil gauge. The chassis, which determines the value and was described in the invoice as number 2513, built in 1913, appears to have been stamped with the 1922 chassis number 35RG.

In November, Mr Silberman will ask the High Court in London for damages for misrepresentation or alternatively for breach of contract, and he will claim the estimated £340,000 difference in the value of the two models.

THE LOSER
Sarah Jane Checkland and Michael Horsnell report on a costly Rolls with a dubious pedigree

In September 1981, Jeffrey Pattinson, now chairman of Coys, had sold the car to John Lawson, a businessman from Surrey, for £55,000. It was billed as a 1913 model but in June 1982 Mr Lawson issued a writ to set aside the sale agreement and claim damages for misrepresentation. The action was settled, however, when Coys accepted the return of the vehicle.

He told *The Times* that he was alerted to the car's likely age by the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain when he tried to enter it for rallies. He then called in Jonathan Harley, the leading authority on vintage Rolls-Royces, who reported the 1922 origin and uncovered the original chassis number.

Mr Lawson said: "I don't wish to comment except to say that Coys told me all along that they didn't realise there was anything wrong with the car. But they certainly knew all about it when they sold it to Mr Silberman because they had all the details and knew damn well what the situation was."

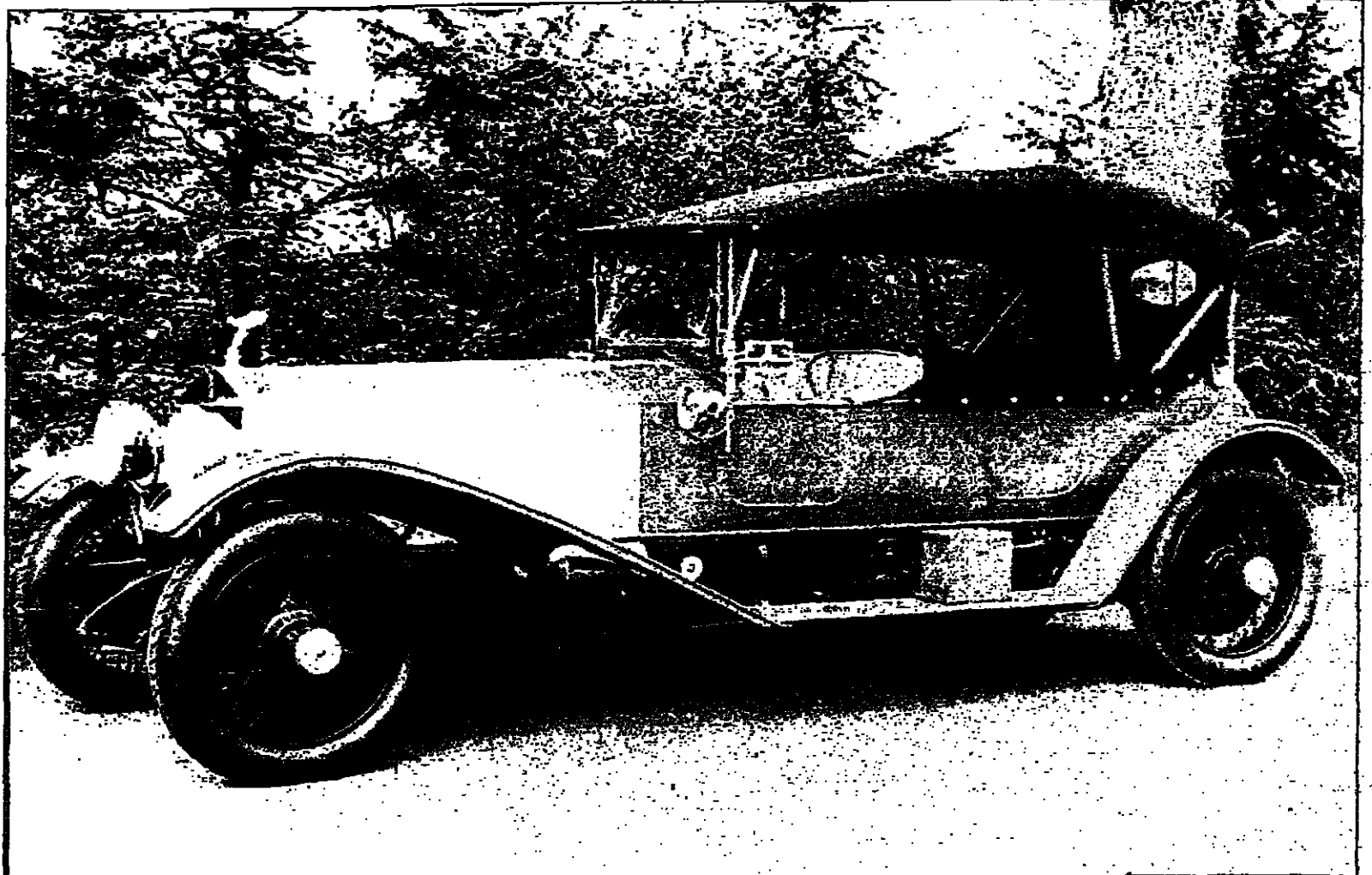
According to Mr Silberman's High Court statement of claim, Mr Harley told Coys shortly before the company took back the Silver Ghost that the chassis had been built after the first world war and bore a 1922 chassis number.

Mr Silberman bought the car in April 1983 from Coys, then known as the Clarendon

Carriage Co, after seeing it advertised in an American magazine and flying to London for a test drive. The advertisement did not specify the date of manufacture or chassis number, but Mr Silberman claims in court documents that Mr Pattinson told him it was a 1913 car and the subsequent invoice (number 098) described it as such. The chassis number was given as 2513.

Mr Silberman contends that, by specifying the chassis number, Coys led him to understand that the car was built in 1913. He claims under the 1967 Misrepresentation Act that Coys recklessly misrepresented the age of the car to him.

Coys denies the claim or even selling the car to Mr Silberman. The company says that the action should have been brought a long time ago and is now time barred under the 1980 Limitation Act.



Ageing process: John Silberman's Silver Ghost Rolls-Royce, which he believed to be a 1913 model when he bought it from a London dealer

Trading experts call for tougher laws to protect buyers

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of the widespread malpractice uncovered by *The Times* in the classic car auction market receive poor protection, according to legal and trading experts who want tougher legislation backed by criminal penalties.

Chris Rogers, trading standards officer at Westminster city council, in whose area most of the leading auction houses are based, called for a review of auction practice after considering a number of the cases that we had investigated.

Such a move appears unlikely, however, following a report to Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, in 1986, which has been left to gather dust even though it recommended changes. The report on the law of auctions criticised "Spanish customs" that it said were rife in car auctions and it recommended the adoption of safeguards, similar to those used in New York.

The law governing auctions in England dates back to the 1845 Auctioneers Act, some of

which remains in force today, and there is still neither a voluntary code of practice by the leading houses nor a legally enforceable regulatory system. The auction houses are subject to the 1968 Theft Act and consumer protection legislation such as the 1979 Sale of Goods Act, but there is no specific legislation to cover the details of practice.

Thus Spanish customs, such as puffing the bid, in which the price of an item is raised by a fictitious bidder or "puffer", taking bids from the chandelier, in which an auctioneer uses fictitious bids to push up the price to the reserve level, and pretending that an unsold item has been purchased, remain unpunished.

The report to the OFT recommended tightening the Sale of Goods Act so that the seller had to publish a notice in the auction catalogue if a puffer would be operating or if the auctioneer was bidding on the owner's behalf. In New York, puffing is forbidden. The report urged the adoption of regulation similar

to the Administrative Code of New York, which protects consumers against some of the practices found in the English houses. The American Department of Consumer Affairs can fine auctioneers for infringements and, ultimately, the house may lose its licence.

Mr Rogers said: "Sometimes in this country you get a picture of a trade that is out of control. What is needed is a

deposits and removal of the goods. Bear in mind that the moment the auctioneer's hammer falls, the last bid is binding."

On top of this, auction houses often print lengthy disclaimers absolving themselves of responsibility for catalogue inaccuracies. Coys, for example, says in its conditions of sale: "Any dispute shall be settled at the auc-

tion law specialist at Birmingham university, agreed that auction law is "basically 19th century and it hasn't been brought up to date". As things stand, he said, any improvements could only be "the result of auction houses taking the initiative".

Practices such as lying about sales figures and auctioneers doubling as dealers might be unethical, but they are not illegal.

In Britain, the Westminster city council trading standards office has the greatest regulatory authority, but its remit covers only the main London auction houses, and its powers, based on the 1984 GLC General Powers Act, are feeble and vague.

Astonishingly, owing to what Mr Rogers calls a slip in the drafting, the relevant section for auctions fails to mention cars and paintings among the items it covers.

The lack of controlling legislation has resulted in a failure:

- to force auctioneers to specify when a given object has failed to sell;
- to control deceptive practices such as bidding off the

chandeliers, which Mr Rogers says "hypes the sale up by pretending there is a lot of interest".

- to tackle the issue of conflicting interests for auctioneers: when auctioneers, having undertaken to pay the vendor an agreed price, end up becoming the owners and offering the item for sale themselves;
- to institute rules regarding after-sales figures. "Only the cars which sold at the time of the sale should be stated as sold," says Robert Brooks of Brooks auctioneers. Provisional bids should not go down on the list as being sold, he says.

- to ensure uniformity of auctioneers' disclaimers, or abolition of the same.
- The act doesn't make it an offence to break the law," Mr Rogers said. Instead, the punishment for failing to comply with the conditions set by the act is for a given auction house to lose its registration, and therefore its right to trade. "It is a draconian power. We have almost got too much power, but not enough intermediary power," he says.

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American collector loses out on European 'bargain'

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

WHEN Gary J. Heim paid \$6,500 (£3,870) in 1984 for a 1967 Ford Mustang that contacts in Europe had found parked unobtrusively behind a car showroom on the French border with Belgium, the American collector thought he had a bargain.

It was the car driven by Peter Revson, Peter Proctor and Andrew Cowan to second place in the sedan class of the gruelling 1967 Tour de France 3,600-mile automobile rally, according to the commemorative plate welded onto the inner fender panel.

Mr Heim repatriated the car, which had been registered in France as 109 JT 18, chassis number 133910, and restored it at his home in Dallas, Texas.

The car's apparent provenance was confirmed by Ford (France) in a letter to a previous owner from M.O. Brasnett, the company's technical supervisor in Paris. The letter described it as the only remaining Mustang of three from the 1967 Tour de France.

Mr Heim kept the car for four years before selling it on and, after it had changed hands several times, it eventually found its way into the Christie's catalogue as lot 32 in auctioneer's sale at Beaulieu, Hampshire, on December 11, 1989.

Christie's described the Mustang in its catalogue as "something of a marker in the history of motoring", the only survivor of the three Mustangs entered by Ford (France) in the 1967 tour, and listed its price at between £35,000 and £45,000.

What Christie's did not know was that the history of the 390 Mustang hardtop had been faked and the letter, ostensibly from Ford, was a forgery. However, there were the strongest grounds for suspicion because the car had an automatic gearbox whereas

previous Mustang entries had manual transmission.

The Tour de France car rally had not been held in 1967 and even if it had been, Peter Proctor, then aged 37, would have been unable to drive. He was still recovering from severe burns suffered in a first-lap crash at Goodwood on Easter Monday in 1966, which ended his competitive career.

It was Doug Nye, leading racing car historian, who remembered the car as bogus from a previous auction in the United States, and confirmed the astonishing errors in the Christie's catalogue. Mr Nye is a former Christie's consultant and is now a consultant for Robert Brooks. A year before the Christie's sale he had advised Robert Brooks, when the Mustang appeared for sale in the United States, that it must be bogus.

Mr Nye said: "It was transparently spurious, it was untrue. We were in competition then with Christie's but with the best will in the world we couldn't let them publicly fall on their faces."

"Anyone should have spotted it, not least because it had an automatic gearbox which, even in its catalogue, Christie's said was 'something of a rarity'."

Christie's contacted Ford (France) on November 27, 1989 and, three days before the auction, M.P.Y. Espenson, the company's technical director, replied that M Brasnett

had not written the letter authenticating the Mustang and that his signature had been forged. By then, however, the auction house had stopped shipment of the car and withdrawn it from sale.

Miles Morris, head of Christie's car division, declined to name the American who had entered it in the Beaulieu sale for reasons of "client confidentiality". However, he said: "We should have checked it out more and normally would have but the Tour de France was not such a well-known automobile race. We have to go to print to get the catalogue out a couple of months before the sale and as usual there is a bit of a panic with deadlines. Sometimes a bit more investigation happens afterwards."

The forger of the Ford letter and the owner of the vehicle when its bogus history was concocted remain a mystery, although *The Times* has located a number of previous owners who were not available for comment.

Mr Heim said: "I had no reason to doubt its authenticity and I had all the documents. Then I got a call from Christie's."

The catalogue said: "The car's provenance has been confirmed by Ford (France) ... of its two team-mates, one was destroyed in the 1967 rally and the other one perished in a later event. This left-hand drive Mustang is an exceptional example of a fine type of classic American sports car."



Withdrawn from sale: the Ford Mustang that the auctioneer was told, was falsely authenticated



Enthusiast's line-up: Ronnie Spain, with a photograph of Ford GT40 models

Model details that failed to make the catalogue

RONNIE Spain, an acknowledged expert on the Ford GT40, was horrified when he saw Sotheby's catalogue entry for the GT40 MkII, chassis number 1012, two days before it was due to be auctioned in Monaco on July 23, 1983.

"During 1967," the catalogue said, "1012 was damaged during a test session at Daytona whilst being driven by Peter Revson. The car, it said, "was subject to a major careful restoration by the present owner."

Mr Spain remembered the relevant entry in his book *GT40: an individual history and race record*, which recorded that on March 21, 1967, the car "was destroyed by Peter Revson in a 185mph testing accident at Daytona, the recently installed roll-cage saving his life".

Mr Spain faxed this information to the auction house and followed it up with a phone call. "I was told by the department 'thank you very much for your concern Mr Spain'. We are quite happy to sell it by the owner's description."

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Half a million warned after fault at treatment works

Firm waited hours before alert on drinking water

By PETER VICTOR

AN INVESTIGATION began last night into the release of three million gallons of untreated water into drinking supplies in northwest London, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire after chlorination equipment failed at a treatment works at Iwer, Buckinghamshire. Half-a-million people were warned to boil tap water for the next three days before drinking.

Three Valleys water company, owned by the French Compagnie Générale des Eaux, admitted last night that it waited several hours after trouble was detected at the plant before alerting the authorities.

It said that drinking the water without boiling it could cause stomach upsets and diarrhoea. A spokesman added that the effects on the

young and the elderly could be more serious. Police toured streets yesterday with loudhailers and distributed leaflets to warn people of the contamination.

Supplies thought to be at risk cover an area of 80 square miles including parts of Brent in west London, Harrow and Hillingdon to the north, and Rickmansworth, Iwer, and Colnbrook to the south and west. The fault was traced to the Iwer water treatment works near Slough, which supplies water to the Rickmansworth water company system.

Geoff Huckerby, the plant's operations manager, said that workers at the plant were alerted to a fault in one of the plant's chlorine humidifiers — a device designed to turn liquid chlorine into gas before



its use for water treatment — on Saturday evening. By 7pm the fault had been rectified.

"But we did not know until 9.30pm what the exact problem was. Our checks revealed that by 7pm the system was on again properly," he said. "It was decided it would be better to take the appropriate action in the early hours rather than

do something counter-productive. It was not serious enough to take action then." The company contacted Scotland Yard at about 12.30am yesterday. Robert Simpson, deputy managing director and head of operations, was in charge.

Mr Huckerby said that company experts checking samples had not yet found any contaminated water. "Although our chemists are out taking samples, we have not yet found any of that water yet. At the moment the water tested has got chlorine residuals, but we cannot take the risk of assuming everything is OK."

The Rickmansworth company merged last December with Colne Valley and Lee Valley to become the Three Valleys water company under French ownership. Previously the CGE had share holdings in the Lee Valley company.

Three Valleys Water Company will now have to provide the Drinking Water Inspectorate with details of the incident. Under the Water Act 1988, official written notification of such incidents must be made within 72 hours.

On the basis of this official notification and a subsequent full written report, due within 30 days, the inspectorate will decide whether the company should be prosecuted. Section 54 of the act defines the offence of providing water unfit for consumption. Summary conviction carries a maximum fine of £2,000. Conviction on indictment carries an unlimited fine and up to two years' imprisonment for the officer responsible.

The most serious case of water contamination in recent years came in July 1988, when 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate was dumped into the wrong tank at treatment works near Camelford in north Cornwall.

The chemical, normally added to water in small quantities, was dumped into 300,000 gallons of already treated water intended for 7,000 homes. South West Water Authority, since replaced by a private company, was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £25,000 costs last January. It also faces 1,000 civil actions.

The MP for one of the areas affected yesterday, Robert Hughes (Con, Harrow West), demanded a full public enquiry into the incident. "While we all appreciate accidents can happen, water is now an expensive commodity for all of my constituents, and such an accident is completely unacceptable."

Mr Hughes said he would seek a debate in Parliament today to give the environment minister the opportunity to respond. Reports that the company failed to act to warn consumers until several hours after the fault was detected should be investigated urgently, he said. Hillingdon council said that it would be joining calls for a public enquiry.

The government announced last week that the Drinking Water Inspectorate is to be merged with the National Rivers Authority and Her Majesty's Inspectorate on pollution to form an independent watchdog modelled on the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States.

Cash tills ring as customers all take to the bottled stuff

By WILLIAM CASE

APART from resentment at their Sunday morning bliss being interrupted by police loudhailers from 7am, people in the 80-square-mile area of northwest London affected by the contaminated water supply appeared subdued and philosophical yesterday as they were instructed to boil all water until further notice.

Peter Evans and Phil Adams, inspectors with neighbouring Lee Valley Water, had been drafted in early yesterday morning to go round repeating a message of warning on their PA system, dealing with door-to-door enquiries from residents and answering questions about whether it was safe to clean teeth, use the dishwasher or have a bath. They said that residents had been understanding and there was no widespread panic.

Enterprising newsgathers had made makeshift billboard signs warning residents to boil water.

Although annoying for residents, the water scare has been good news for local convenience stores which yesterday reported soaring trade in bottled water.

Buying six large bottles of mineral water from a grocery store in Sudbury High Street, Nick O'Dell, 27, of Greenford, a lawyer in the City, said that he was not surprised when he heard the news on Capital Radio at 9am. It did not bother him anyway because he did not trust tap water and never drank it.

At the McDonald's restaurant in the centre of Harrow no drinks were sold all day after police informed it of the situation at 7.10am. John

Mason, the duty manager, said that, although it had been quite a warm day, most of the customers had been understanding and that the staff were taking precautions to wash their hands in boiled water before touching food.

At the Clementine Churchill private hospital on Sudbury Hill the duty sister Nicki Pulson said that there had been no difficulties throughout the day because the hospital had a reserve supply of bottled water. At the NHS Northwick Park Hospital, it was a different story. Mary Omegebu, a staff nurse on duty in the Dryden Ward, said that she had only been given six bottles of water for the 25 elderly patients in her ward. "It's really not enough at all and if it goes on much longer it could become serious."

Chlorine needed to counteract sewage poured into Thames

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WATER companies depend on chlorine to destroy bacteria in supplies drawn from rivers. Most of the Rickmansworth Water Company's supplies come from boreholes in chalk, but about 30 per cent is drawn from the Thames and treated at Iwer, Buckinghamshire. While ground water is usually free of bacteria, river water is invariably contaminated by sewage outfalls.

The bacteria commonly found in the human gut are used as an index of water quality. To meet European Community standards tap water is expected to be free of these coliform bacteria in at least 95 per cent of the samples tested. Last year Rickmansworth made 1,965 tests of water quality at its 22 treatment works without detecting either coliform or faecal coliform bacteria.

The coliform bacteria monitored do not usually cause disease, but their absence indicates that the water is free of more dangerous organisms.

On Saturday night, one of

the three processes for purifying the Thames water at Iwer failed for about two and a half hours. Normally the water is filtered through sand to remove silt and other particles, and chlorinated twice to kill bacteria and any other organisms. One of the two chlorination processes broke down, allowing some three million gallons of only partially purified water into the system. Rickmansworth sup-



McGowan: water left the works unchlorinated

plies on average more than 45 million gallons a day.

Mr Jim McGowan, managing director of Three Valleys Water, said: "Before water leaves the works it is chlorinated to remove any bacteria. The water in this case left the works unchlorinated."

Whether that water contained dangerous bacteria is not yet known. Last night the company said that tests had so far failed to detect any.

The chlorine that failed to get into the water would have served two purposes: cleaning it of remaining bacteria and, by persisting in the water as it went through the supply system, preventing recontamination from damaged pipes or other contamination. Its absence means that the water company cannot be sure that all the water was clean as it emerged from its customers' taps.

People drinking the water without boiling it would risk stomach upsets, likely to be irritating rather than dangerous except for the very young and the old.

'Dogfight' is predicted for London NHS trust funds

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A "VICIOUS dog fight" for a dwindling pool of resources will throw London hospitals into chaos and bankruptcy when a fully fledged internal market opens next year, a report predicts today.

A further spate of job losses and service cuts would accompany the second wave of NHS trusts in London, the Confederation of Health Service Employees says. Many hospitals could face the same

fate as Guy's hospital, which announced a £6.8million savings package after becoming self-governing.

The report, researched by the London Health Emergency Group, argues that the move to weighted capitation next year, where health authorities are funded only for their resident population, will create immense financial difficulties. Hospitals would have to rely on attracting patients

from shire counties. Some hospitals would be forced out of business as they competed for the same patients. "We expect a vicious dog-fight between the three teaching hospitals in the area, King's, St Thomas's and Guy's, for cash-backed patients, which will result in the collapse of at least one of them."

Hospitals most vulnerable to closure were St Thomas's, King's and the West Middlesex.

Applications for second wave trusts, which include St Thomas's Hospital (rejected for this year) and King's College Hospital (which withdrew its application), were no better than they were last year, says the report.

Derek Smith, shadow chief executive of the proposed King's trust, said he was confident the hospital would eliminate its underlying deficit of £4million.

John Pelly, shadow finance director for St Thomas's Trust, said the hospital was in a much better financial position than the previous year.

ning to show themselves significantly."

Many qualified staff are moving from residential childcare to fieldwork, underlining the weaknesses in residential care already highlighted by the Levy report into the pin-down regime, the association says. Many children at risk would be left without social work protection and some authorities would be unable to respond to growing demands from new legislation and demographic changes.

Children 'left at risk'

ONE in ten social worker posts are unfilled, leaving hundreds of children at risk without protection, according to a report published today.

The report from the Association of Directors of Social Services says that the national shortage of field social workers has continued unabated for three years and has increased by 7 per cent in the last year. Ian White, the association's vice-president, says: "The results of many years of squeezing social services budgets are now begin-



Inspired by the gypsy: a shot taffeta bolero with high ruffled collar and sleeves, from the Christian Lacroix couture collection unveiled yesterday

King stands by defence cuts

By BILL FROST

AS SOME of the British army's most decorated and distinguished regiments waited to learn their fate, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday that he felt "no guilt" about cutbacks in the armed forces to be announced in the Commons on Tuesday.

The restructuring operation, which will reduce the number of infantry battalions from 55 to 36, has been criticised by senior officers who argue that their ability to

meet all existing commitments may be put in jeopardy.

As a result of the cuts, likely to amount to about 40,000 personnel, Britain could have her smallest land army for more than a century: reduced from 156,000 to 116,000 men and women. Although the

infantry regiments are prime targets, the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps may be earmarked for drastic pruning.

Asked on TV-am about the

cuts Mr King said: "We have a job to do. My guilt would be if I ducked it. That would be the cruelest thing to do to the army. If we did not face up to the changes that have to be made then, as has happened before, we would keep too many regiments."

The Army Board, which includes Mr King, will give final approval for the cuts when it meets today.

Letters, page 15

Bravado to the fore in French fashions

From LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

THE market for haute couture fashion has shrunk. Its over-heads continue to soar. To make matters worse, Yves Saint Laurent, its acknowledged leader, announced its death sentence in the *Figaro* last week when he said that haute couture was an outdated tradition and could not survive the decade. Yet French fashion is putting on a convincing display of bravado this week.

Edith Cresson, the prime minister, showed her solidarity yesterday and attended the *Toronto* show in the morning, wearing a black *Toronto* suit trimmed in white pique. "It is one of our major industries and a major export. That is why I am here," she says.

The French couturiers may not sell as many dresses at 150,000 francs each as they once did, but they are keeping afloat — or, if you prefer, going down — in some style.

Paris, and only Paris, will do as a stage for the top international designers. Three top Italian couturiers have abandoned Rome to show here. Milla Schön and Gianni Versace showed their couture collections here on Saturday and Valentino, who recently staged an extravagant three-day celebration of his 34 years in fashion, will have the finale on Wednesday night.

Versace, who has opened a glossy palazzo of a shop on the Faubourg St Honoré, created "boudoir" couture. He contrasted the fragility of tiny pleated skirts in pastel lace with corsets and jewel-cuffed thigh boots in satin. The key pattern used for the frieze in his new shop reappeared in black and white to trim his sexy line of zipped jackets and beaded, skin-tight bodysuits, one of which was worn by his sister, Donatella, at a dinner given after the show by the Italian ambassador to Paris.

Christian Lacroix's sister, Florence, got dressed up in Arlesienne costume to attend the first of her brother's fashion shows yesterday. She sat beside a former Queen of Arles, Annick Ripert, also in traditional costume, to applaud the latest Lacroix line of gypsy-inspired embroidered jacks and pleated skirts.

Leading article, page 15

If you're planning to take a continental motoring holiday this year you may be surprised to learn that Europ Assistance is the largest motoring organisation in Europe.

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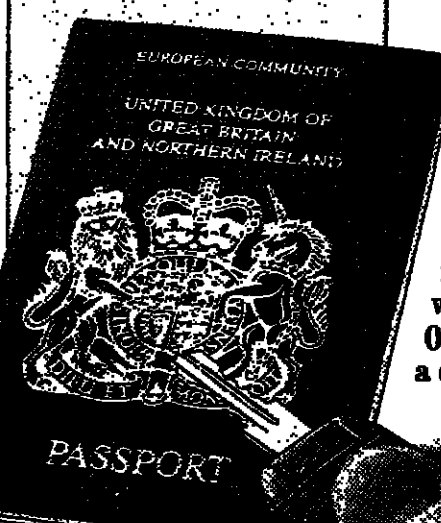
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TIM 03

AGENDA

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: Liberal Democrats publish policy on science and technology. Labour reports on women and the environment. Government announces June balance of payments figures.

Tomorrow: President Mubarak of Egypt arrives on a state visit. The governor of the Bank of England reports to House of Commons treasury committee on BCCI affair. ITV launches its autumn programmes. *Reader's Digest* introduces a Russian edition.

Wednesday: Commons home affairs committee reports on the tote. Christian enthusiasts in Nantwich begin reading the Bible from cover to cover. Labour's national executive discuss issue of Terry Fields MP.

Thursday: General Schwarzkopf, commander of allied Gulf war forces, attends the Royal Tournament, Earl's Court. Game Fair opens at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire. The Prince of Wales addresses Business in the Community conference at Grey Coat Hospital, Westminster. Parliament goes into recess until October 14.

Friday: Start of the British Transplant Games in Glasgow.

Saturday: Game Fair closes. Sunday: National Refugee Day.

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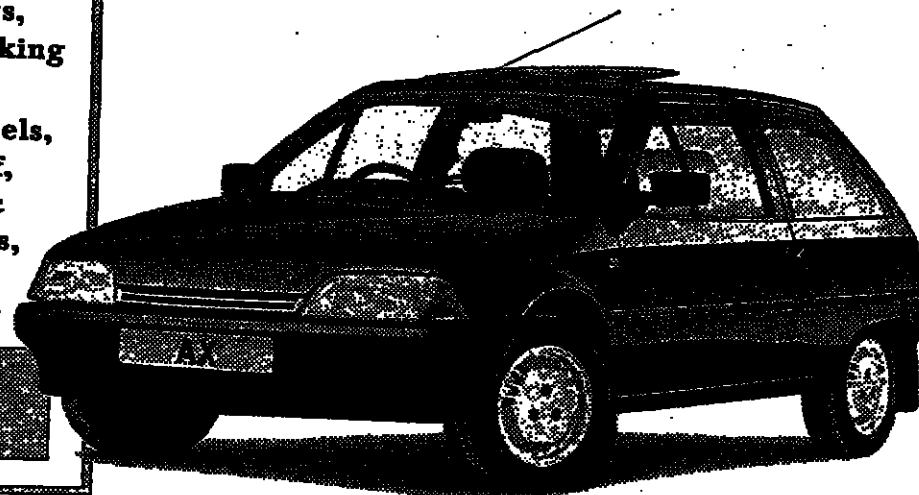
MODEL	PRICE	CITROËN ADVANTAGE
AX Miami	£5,670	
Fiesta 1.0 Popular	£6,590	£920 Saving
AX Memphis	£7,125	Sunroof, tinted glass, 5-speed gearbox, stereo radio/cassette
Nova 1.2 Merit	£7,395	
AX 11TZX	£7,745	Sunroof, tinted glass, electric windows, central locking
Nova 1.2 Luxe	£7,910	
AX GT Sportif	£8,685	Alloy wheels, sunroof, electric windows, central locking
Fiesta 1.6S	£9,074	

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سازمان الاطلا

US drugs sting 'gave Pan Am bomber cover'



Coleman alleges America was running drugs sting operation

A FORMER American intelligence officer who worked for a secret unit, four of whose members have been killed, is hiding abroad because of allegations he has made about the Lockerbie bomb disaster.

Lester Knox Coleman, formerly with the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), is a key witness behind allegations that negligence on the part of the US government led to the placing of a bomb on board Pan Am flight 103 which exploded over Lockerbie in Scotland on December 21, 1988, killing 270 people.

Mr Coleman, aged 47, worked until May 1990 with the secret unit Middle East Collection 10 (MC10). For most of his six years with the DIA he was in Cyprus, running a network of agents in Beirut, whose mission was to find American hostages held by extremists. Two senior MC10 members, says Mr Coleman, were Matthew Kevin Gannon and Major Charles Dennis McKee. Both were on flight 103 and had just returned from a mission in Beirut. Also on board was Khaled Nazir Jaafar, a Lebanese agent for the American Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Mr Coleman has a unique insight into DIA and DEA operations in the Middle East because he worked for both organisations in Cyprus. While still a DIA agent - usually paid in travellers' cheques sent from the Luxembourg branch of the now collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) - he was seconded twice to the DEA, from February to September 1987 and April to May 1988.

According to an affidavit by Mr Coleman given to Pan Am lawyers in Brussels on April 17 this year, the DEA, with the narcotics squad of the Cypriot national police, the German BKA police and British customs, ran a "drugs sting operation" through Cyprus and airports in Europe including Frankfurt. It involved delivering heroin from the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon to the United States, particularly to Detroit, Houston and Los Angeles, where there are large Lebanese communities.

The explanation for this operation, which was unofficially codenamed Khourah, was provided by Ronald Caffrey, acting assistant administrator of the operational division of the DEA,

A former American intelligence officer is in hiding after claiming that US negligence while investigating drugs trafficking led to the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988. Michael Evans investigates

in a US government submission dated March 20 this year. He said the drugs operation was "a controlled delivery".

His statement said: "In a controlled delivery, a law enforcement agency permits and monitors shipment of contraband, including drugs, to move from a source or transit location to its intended destination. Use of this technique is sometimes essential to enable law enforcement agencies to identify and arrest high-ranking members of trafficking organisations, rather than simply arrest low level couriers."

Mr Coleman, with his knowledge of this type of operation, believes that flight 103 was being used by the DEA as a "controlled" flight in which Khaled Jaafar, a DEA courier, was allowed to carry his luggage through Frankfurt without being

subject to normal security checks. He knew Jaafar was one of many agents involved in drug operations.

In a telephone conversation last October with a BKA officer in charge of investigations at Frankfurt Rhein-Main airport, Mr Coleman said he was told that BKA had "serious concerns" that a US drugs sting operation out of Cyprus had been used by terrorists to place the bomb on flight 103, by switching bags.

According to reports last year, the security of flight 103 had already been compromised by a mysterious man with an American accent using the pseudonym David Lovejoy, who had reportedly telephoned the Iranian embassy in Beirut on December 20, 1988, the day before the Lockerbie flight, to tip them off that US agents Gannon and McKee would return from a

mission in Beirut to the US on flight 103.

Mr Coleman said: "Individuals involved in drug sting operations would arrive at Larnaca (in Cyprus) on the ferry from Jounieh (in Lebanon) and be escorted by officers of the Cypriot national police to the offices of Eurame Trading Company in Nicosia, a DEA proprietary company." Mr Coleman saw Khaled Jaafar on at least three occasions in the Eurame offices and knew him to be a DEA courier.

The DEA has denied it was involved in a drugs sting operation at any time around the Lockerbie incident. But James Shaughnessy, lead counsel for Pan Am, said in his latest affidavit dated May 3: "The DEA's denial is incredulous... simply false." Pan Am's affidavit refers to a telephone conversation between a senior officer of British customs' investigations branch and Michael Jones of Pan Am Corporate Security in London in which he asked: "Have you considered a bag switch in Frankfurt due to the large amounts of Turkish workers?"

The Beirut end of MC10 had been "blown". There were five key members of the MC10 cell in Cyprus and Beirut, according to Mr Coleman. Apart from Mr Coleman there was Werner Tony Asmar, a German Lebanese, Charlie Frezeli, a Lebanese army officer, and two more Lebanese who worked with Asmar. Asmar was killed in a bomb explosion at his office in east Beirut on May 26, 1988. Frezeli was shot dead at his home in east Beirut in November 1989. When Asmar was killed, the DIA ordered Mr Coleman home.

Those like Mr Coleman and the Pan Am lawyers who are convinced there is a link between the Lockerbie bomb and "Operation Khourah" were not helped by the so-called Aviv report, which claimed that a rogue CIA unit permitted the bag switch, knowing it contained a bomb. The report, produced by Israeli investigator Juval Aviv, was discredited. Now, however, a judge in a US court has ruled that the US government must produce all relevant documents relating to the practice of drugs sting operations through Frankfurt and elsewhere in Europe.

Bar unveils a charter for user-friendly court system

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CITIZEN'S charter for the courts to make justice more user-friendly, including evening and weekend hearings, crèches, televised court proceedings and public open days, is unveiled by the Bar today.

At the heart of the charter, which the Bar has sent to ministers the week the government is expected to launch its own citizen's charter, is the scrapping of the principle that a judge should never be kept waiting. Instead, courts should be geared to the needs of the public.

At present, the Bar says, people can be forced to wait long hours in dismal surroundings with no refreshment facilities and are banned from eating their own food. Sometimes courts have no public telephones or lavatories, nor privacy for lawyers to interview clients. People on opposite sides of a case have to mingle in the same areas.

Anthony Scrivener QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "The courts system is a monopoly public provider of services. As such, it should be accountable to and run with the interests of the citizen in mind."

He said it was time to end the rule that judges should never be kept waiting and should try to reduce waiting times outside the court room.

It was also time to make a concerted effort to improve court facilities for witnesses and relatives, the disabled, and parents with children. "We must act to use court time more imaginatively, in the evenings or at weekends, so that unnecessary inconvenience for the citizen who has to use the courts can be avoided."

A key element of the charter would be to ensure that people who used the courts had a way to make their views known. The Bar recommends a new national courts consumer council with consumer representatives for every crown court and county court sentence.

Although court users committees exist, 32 out of 72 crown court centres do not have them. Where they do exist, the Bar says, "There is one notable absentee in their composition: the consumer."

On of the main targets of the charter is to improve listing. People can be kept waiting for long periods and sometimes cases are cancelled altogether.

Other proposals from the bar are for better waiting facilities, including crèches and for wheelchair facilities. A survey by the *New Law Journal* in January 1990 found that of 17 London magistrates' courts, only one had a public canteen and that was closed through staff shortages.

Most courts ban food and drink from the premises. Marlborough Street has no public lavatories and Lambeth has no public telephones. Crèches are almost universally lacking.

Finally, the bar calls for evening and weekend court hearings to be considered because these would be more convenient for many consumers. It also favours open days, televising the courts, and improving the language in court forms and legal documents.

Citizens' charter, page 28



Net gain? Driftnet fishermen in the North Atlantic. Critics say a salmon buy-out would put more fish in the nets than in Britain's rivers

Bishop explains Carey's vision

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

LAY MEN and women should lead rural worship, which is "dying the death of a thousand cuts", the Bishop of Norwich said in a sermon at Norwich cathedral yesterday.

The Rt Rev Peter Nott, who inspired the Archbishop of Canterbury's plan for simultaneous services in every parish in England, said critics had misunderstood the plan unveiled last month.

"There should be a corporate act of worship in every community, however tiny, on every Sunday," he told Church of England readers. Weekly acts of worship held in every community at the same time could be led by ordinary lay men and women from the congregations.

"As clergy numbers have fallen, so worship in the countryside has been reduced to fit the capacity of priests and available readers to circulate around the churches. Some say this has been a sensible cutting of the coat according to the cloth."

"I think it is much more sinister. What is happening is that rural worship is dying the death of a thousand cuts," he said. "You cannot worship in the countryside these days unless you are armed with a

duplicate sheet of paper giving the incredibly complex computations of times, dates and places of worship."

"This might be all right for the very committed, but would be occasional worshippers and holidaymakers, both of which are significant groups, are understandably daunted by the complexity and tend not to bother."

Dr George Carey, the archbishop, wants "a service... in every town or village at, say, 10 o'clock every Sunday morning". Some clergy claimed they were already overworked while others said the idea was impractical.



Nott: "Worshippers are understandably daunted"

Heritage of London left to rot

By JOHN YOUNG

HUNDREDS of historic London buildings are being allowed to decay when buyers could easily be found to restore them, says a report by Save Britain's Heritage.

The study gives details of 125 buildings in 28 of the 33 London boroughs. Almost all of them are listed and they range from Georgian and Victorian terrace houses to such treasures as a disused arm factory, a former hospital for horses, a 17th-century chapel and a locomotive shed built by Robert Stephenson.

The preservation group says it continually receives calls from individuals looking for homes to restore and from companies searching for buildings to convert to offices.

"Many of these handsome historic buildings are owned by the local authority," it says. "It is absolutely scandalous that so many councils have allowed the heritage on their doorsteps to rot for years on end. If only they had been put on the market at a sensible price, they would have been snapped up and restored a long time ago."

Only ministerial action can halt this wanton decay and municipal vandalism, it says.

Driftnets threaten salmon quota deal

DRIFTNET fishing off England's northeast coast could jeopardise a salmon quota buy-out agreed by Faroe fishermen.

The Faroe government has agreed not to fish for three years from 1992 in return for payment of \$700,000 (£416,600) a year. It has also said it would negotiate similar agreements in future.

But in a letter to *The Times* today, the Atlantic Salmon Trust says the agreement could collapse if the UK fails to raise its share of funding for the buy-out. Fishery owners say they are reluctant to pay because the driftnet fishermen will be the main beneficiaries of a buy-out.

The Faroe agreement followed an initiative by the Icelandic Fishery Association. The initiative is being viewed as a triumph likely to boost fish stocks. Tourism and industries associated with salmon fishing bring between £40 million and £80 million to Scotland annually.

It is hoped that voluntary contributions will fund the buy-out. All countries which have salmon rivers and therefore stand to benefit will be asked to contribute. These include Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Iceland.

Group Captain John Proudlock, secretary of the Association of Scottish District Fishery Boards which represents river fishery owners in Scotland, said that more than 90 per cent of fish caught by the northeast driftnets originated in Scotland.

"It would hardly be fair to expect our members to contribute to the Faroe buy-out if it meant putting more fish in the nets and not in the rivers," he said.

England, Ireland and Wales are the only countries which allow driftnet fishing in the North Atlantic. It was banned in Scotland in 1962.

A scheme has been suggested to buy out the netmen licensed to fish on the northeast coast of England. The situation there, however, is different according to Tony Champion, fisheries manager for the National Rivers Authority in Northumberland.

"In England there is a public right to fish in the sea. We must issue salmon fishing licences by order, although the current net limitation order is 121 for the Northumberland region. If a licensee was paid to retire, we would be required by law to re-allocate that licence. It would need a change in the law to reduce the number of licences issued."

Many fishermen are prepared to consider buy-outs but a significant number want their sons to carry on the tradition which dates from the 19th century.

Letters, page 15

Survey shows 66% oppose union curbs

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONLY 18 per cent of voters favour further legislation to curb trade union powers, according to a survey carried out for the TUC.

The survey results, released today, suggest considerable public scepticism over the need for the government's employment green paper. The NOP survey of 982 adults aged over 18 found 66 per cent opposed further laws on trade union rights. Opposition cut across all ages and social classes.

Norman Willis, the TUC's general secretary, said the results showed the government to be out of touch with

public opinion. NOP found overwhelming support for the right for people to be represented by a trade union when they have a conflict with their employer, although that right is not enshrined in law. The poll also showed strong support for a minimum wage, limits on hours of work, and a right to paid leave for a certain number of days. Sixty-two per cent backed TUC calls for a minimum wage.

Support for measures to tackle training and unemployment was also strong. Eighty-four per cent listed measures to tackle unemployment as very important.

£6 market drawings expected to make £30,000

By JOHN SHAW

TWO architectural drawings, bought for £6 from a street market about 20 years ago, are now expected to make up to £30,000 in a sale of decorative arts at Christie's in Glasgow.

They have been identified as previously undocumented studies by Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928), the Scottish architect and de-

signer, and will be auctioned on September 23.

They were brought to the saleroom by a couple who wish to remain anonymous. The owners knew the identity of the art nouveau architect, but were unaware of the significance of the drawings. The husband, a town planner, picked them up as a birthday present for his wife at Paddy's Market in Glasgow. "Paddy's

is a weekend junk market," said a member of the auction house staff. "It is the bottom end of any market anywhere. A couple kept them before the woman decided to have them reframed. The drawings were taken to a framer and then to a museum. Both places realised that they might be valuable, so the woman brought them here."

"A shop and an office block

in an arcade street," and a warehouse block in an arcade street," estimated at between £10,000 to £15,000 each, will improve the understanding of his work during a bleak period professionally around 1915.

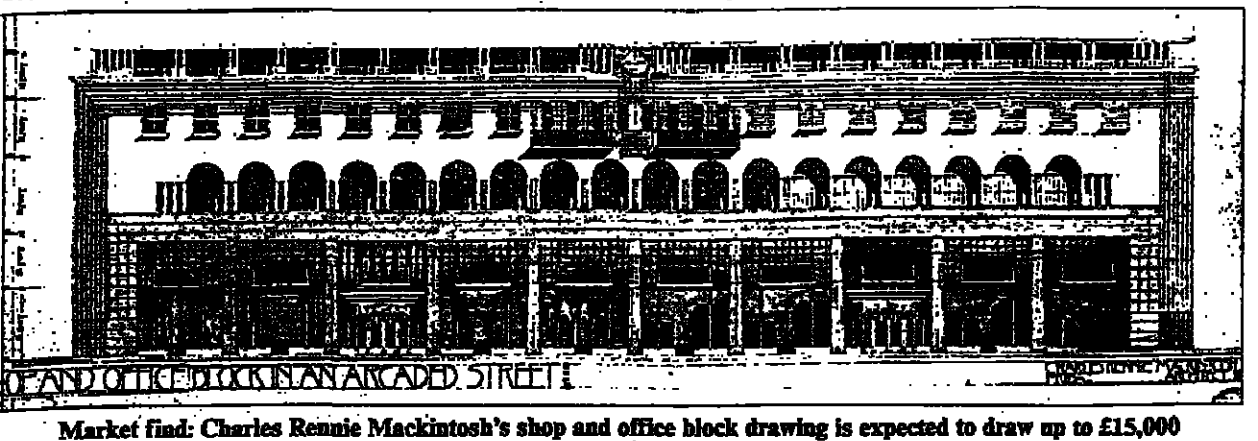
It is believed they were commissioned by Patrick Geddes (1854-1932) and related to Geddes' town planning surveys in India. During that summer Mackintosh shared a

room with him briefly at King's College, London. Later that year, Mackintosh was invited to Bombay or Calcutta to work on reconstruction schemes, but did not go.

"The drawings show Mackintosh working for the first time on a new scale - that of urban streetscape," Pamela Robertson, curator of the Mackintosh Collection at the Hunterian art gallery, University of Glasgow, said.

"He was designing probably for an overseas location for the first time and working in a style that contains references to Glasgow while anticipating the decorative designs of the London period."

It is not known how the drawings turned up. Paul Howard, head of Christie's 20th century decorative arts department in Glasgow, said: "It is extremely rare for drawings of this nature to appear on the market and we are delighted that they will be sold in the city."



Market find: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's shop and office block drawing is expected to draw up to £15,000

OBSERVER, SUNDAY 7 JULY 1991

Car wars: Discounts

UK NEWS

Fiat cuts prices as car war intensifies

By Kevin Done, Motor Industry Correspondent

FIAT, the Italian car maker, yesterday began the growing price war in the UK market with cuts ranging from 100 on selected models across

the fourth car maker to cut. Nissan UK, Ford

and up to The big made on the Fiat 6. The company market has been in the first of per cent is over est. the

Nissan cuts prices to reverse slump

By MICHAEL REPP, Motor Industry Correspondent

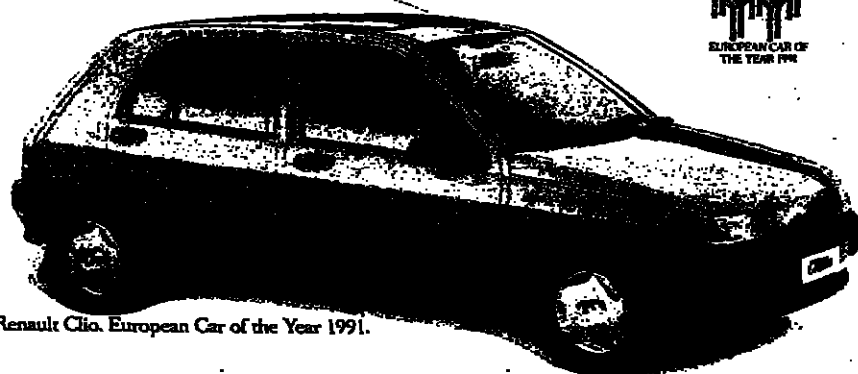
FAMILY SIZE CHALLENGE FROM FORD

Ford slashes VAUXHALL OFF ASTRA

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET WHAT YOU REALLY WANT IN THE SUMMER SALES?

Look closely, and a bargain is often not a real bargain. It's not what you really wanted. It's not comfortable. It's a tight squeeze. The colour doesn't suit you. You'll be tired of it by next summer.

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And while Renault equipment levels are higher than the main competitors, price levels are actually lower – even after all the “price cuts”.

For example, the Clio RL is £1,014 less than the equivalent Ford Fiesta. Whilst the new Clio RN 1.9 Diesel is £852 less than its Fiesta counterpart.

Or compare the stylish Renault 19 GTS-X 1.4 with the Escort LX: £760 less.

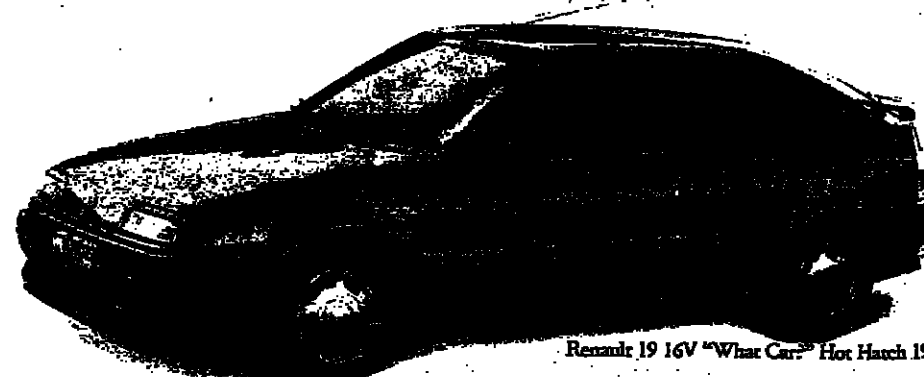
Then at £12,725, there is the Renault 19 16-Valve, which has been judged “Best Hot Hatch” by What Car?, and “the best fast hatch” by Performance Car. Not bad going for a car that's £2,078 less than the Golf GTI 16V.

Even the luxurious Renault 21 GTS 1.7, compared with the Vauxhall Cavalier L is £375 less.

Of course Renault Dealers are also offering you great deals. Right now Renault Diamond Deals give such things as free “on-the-road” costs, free optional extras, and interest free finance offers on certain cars, as your local Renault dealer will be pleased to tell you. And there are great part exchange prices available across the range.



All things considered it must come as no surprise to know that Renault is the only major car manufacturer to have actually increased its sales over the last three months.



Renault 19 16V “What Car?” Hot Hatch 1991.

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RENAULT

All price comparisons quoted exclude delivery and number plates, but include 17.5% VAT and Car Tax. All comparisons are based on manufacturers' data. Renault cash prices, inc. est. “on-the-road” costs are shown in brackets. Vehicles compared – Renault Clio RL 1.2 5-door (shown) £7,540 (8,000), Renault Clio RN 1.9 Diesel 5-door £8,875 (9,325), Renault 19 GTS-X 1.4 5-door £9,365 (9,815), Renault 19 16-Valve (shown) £12,725 (13,175), Renault 21 GTS 1.7 5-door £11,360 (11,810), Ford Fiesta “Prestige Plus” CR 1.1 5-door £8,954, Ford Fiesta LX 1.8 Diesel 5-door £9,727, Ford Escort LX 1.4 5-door £10,125, VW Golf GTI 16V 18V 1.8 3-door £14,803, Vauxhall Cavalier L 1.8 5-door £11,740. Diamond Deals are available on selected Renault cars ordered and registered before 31 August 1991, while stocks last. Finance offers subject to credit status. Written quotations available on request. Credit facilities provided by Renault Financial Services, NWS House, City Road, Chester X CH99 5AN. All prices and comparison data correct at time of going to press. Renault is a registered trademark of Renault S.A. France.

Tests 'unfair to pupils born in summer'

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN born in summer were at a severe disadvantage in the first tests for seven-year-olds under the national curriculum, the National Union of Teachers says today. A report drawing on replies from more than 2,500 teachers in 1,750 schools confirmed earlier assessments that the standard assessment tasks (SATs) took nearly twice as long to administer as the government had estimated. Nearly three-quarters of the teachers reported a detrimental effect on pupils' behaviour during the 52 hours most classes spent on the tests.

Lord Griffiths, the chairman of the Schools Examination and Assessment Council, has been asked by ministers to simplify the SATs, using pencil and paper tests where possible. The NUT believes that such a change will exacerbate the difficulties faced by pupils with summer birthdays, who

are tested before they are seven and have often spent two terms less than their classmates in school.

The union's report says that although teachers were not questioned directly on the subject, the wide age differential among Year Two pupils, who sat the first tests, brought the most common complaint of unfairness. The disadvantage was compounded for Year One pupils in mixed-age classes because of the teaching time they missed while the SATs were being administered.

At a Leicestershire school, a third of summer-born children were assessed at the top level for writing and a quarter for mathematics, compared with three-quarters of those with autumn birthdays. Half the autumn-born pupils reached the top level in reading, compared with 7 per cent of those born in summer.

A union spokeswoman said: "This response was typical of the comments we received from many teachers." Doug McAvoy, the NUT's general secretary, who presented the results to Tim Eggar, the education minister, last Friday, said: "This is nothing to do with their ability or the quality of their teaching."

Mr Eggar said that changes were being considered, concentrating on reducing the time taken to administer SATs.

Education, pages 10-11



Lord Griffiths: ministers want him to simplify tests

Jailed MP to face executive

TERENCE Fields, the Labour MP jailed for not paying poll tax, will be summoned to a meeting of the party's ruling national executive in September to answer allegations about his links with Militant (Richard Ford writes).

A party enquiry has found that the MP for Liverpool, Broadgreen has consistently supported Militant, promoted its policies and been involved in its front organisations.

The results of a nine-day investigation of the "activities and political affiliations" of Mr Fields, who is serving a 60-day sentence in Walton jail, will go before Wednesday's meeting of the executive. The report is also understood to contain details of alleged links between David Nellist, MP for Coventry South East, and the Militant organisation. Mr Nellist has denied involvement with the Militant.

Fight for justice after 13 years and a £27 compensation award

Mother brings civil action over strangled girl

By RONALD FAUX AND FRANCES GIBBS

LYNN Siddons, aged 16, was found dead in a wood a mile from her home in Derby 13 years ago. She had been strangled and stabbed 38 times in the stomach and chest in a frenzied attack. Her family, which received £27 compensation for its loss, has campaigned ever since for justice in the case.

Today in the High Court Gail Halford, her mother, of Alvaston, Derby, will bring what is in effect a civil action alleging deliberate killing against Michael Brookes and his stepson, Fitzroy Brookes, in connection with the death of Lynn in April 1978.

She is bringing the action for battery resulting in the death of her daughter and seeking damages, including aggravated damages, for loss of earnings and loss of expectation of life in respect of injuries caused to her daughter which led to her death. Both defendants deny the claim.

As Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, put it when the case came before the Court of Appeal in May, "this is no run-of-the-mill claim for negligence". The Court of Appeal ruled that it was just on balance to allow the claim to be brought, even though it had not been started within the legal time limits. Gail Halford had not been aware of the civil remedy at her disposal until six years after Lynn's death.

The Court of Appeal ruling marked another agonising twist in the fight by Lynn's family to see justice done. The ruling is thought to be unprecedented because the criminal court cleared Fitzroy Brookes of the murder, while Michael Brookes has never been charged and denies any complicity.

The test to be applied in the damages trial will be the civil test of the balance of probabilities, which is a less strict test than the criminal test of "beyond reasonable doubt". However given the seriousness of the claim, the test will be applied as strictly as possible. If the claim is



Long campaign: Flo Siddons, left, and Gail Halford in front of a painting of Lynn

successful, the Director of Public Prosecutions could come under pressure to consider a criminal prosecution.

Flo Siddons, aged 77, Lynn's grandmother, said: "This terrible thing that happened to Lynn has dominated our lives for 13 years. Neither Lynn nor any of us will rest until the man who killed her is brought to justice. We got £27 compensation. That is what they thought Lynn was worth, which is insulting. Losing her if she had been ill would have been dreadful, but thinking of what she

must have suffered and the pointless waste still makes me very angry, very determined."

The day in April 1978 when Lynn had disappeared remains vivid in Gail Halford's memory. "She should have been home for tea, but by 10pm we knew something was terribly wrong and reported her missing to the police, who just added her name to their list of missing persons. We spent all week searching woods where Roy (Fitzroy) Brookes last saw her," she said. Six days after her disappearance

Lynn's body was found by two boys near the towpath beside the Trent Mersey canal.

Fitzroy Brookes, then aged 15, confessed to police that he had attacked Lynn. Six months later at the remand centre in Leicester he claimed he had inflicted only superficial wounds on the girl and that it was his stepfather, a prosecution witness at his trial, who had carried out the murder. Michael Brookes gave evidence at the trial in Nottingham in November 1978 denying this.

The judge advised the jury: "You may think this was not a one-man or a one-boy job. At any rate you may not think it was a one-boy job. The question you must answer is this, 'was it this accused who strangled Lynn Siddons, was it this accused who stabbed her and caused her death?' If it was in either case the prosecution have to make you feel sure that he had the necessary intent. If you are not convinced, if you have a reasonable doubt, then you must acquit the accused of murder."

The judge explained what was meant by intent. If the accused was there and then present, assisting the other in some way, he could be equally guilty of murder if he knew there was an intention to kill or to cause really serious bodily harm. However, he would not be guilty, even if he was there, unless the jury was convinced that he knew of the intention to kill or do serious bodily harm to the girl. The jury took an hour to reach a unanimous verdict of not guilty on Fitzroy Brookes. The judge said he agreed. The Director of Public Prosecutions later ruled out charging the stepfather and that was the start of the family's campaign.

Using printed posters and leaflets they aimed to excite police and public interest in the case. Fitzroy Brookes went into care and remained there until he was aged 18. Michael Brookes and his wife were rehoused by Derby council and now live under a different name in another town in the Midlands. A petition signed by nearly 6,000 people expressing dissatisfaction with the handling of the case by Derby police was handed to Derbyshire county council.

With all the officers on the original case no longer in police service and the trail of clues cold the Siddons family presses on, having spent £14,000 pursuing the case. Derbyshire police say the case remains open and that enquiries continue. Gail Halford said: "We just want an end to it so that we can get on with our lives."

School gets deadline in sex attack dispute

David Hunt, Welsh Secretary, has given the governors of a church-run school in Cardiff six weeks to reconsider their decision not to expel three 14-year-old boys who sexually assaulted a girl pupil.

Parents and teachers welcomed a letter from Mr Hunt to the governors at the Bishop of Landaff High School, which said they had acted "in default of their duty".

The head teacher, Dr Leonard Parfitt, wanted to expel the boys, but was overruled by the Very Rev Alan Radcliffe Davies, the governors' chairman, who ordered suspension. Twenty teachers went on strike and others refused to teach the boys on their return.

Motorway jog

Police took three Mozambican athletes competing in the Student Games in Sheffield to a local training ground after spotting them running along the hard shoulder of the M1.

Four killed

Four people died when a stolen car collided with a car on the A6006 between Rempton and Zouches villages, Nottinghamshire.

Prince's gift

Prince Charles donated £25,000 from a charity polo match to the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham where he was treated after breaking his arm last year.

Climber killed

Arthur Seddon, aged 47, of Bolton, Lancashire, was killed when he fell while climbing the 3,000ft Great Gable in Cumbria.

Cell death

Kevin Thomas Hole, 28, who was serving eight years for drug offences was found hanging in his cell at Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight.

Bond winners

Winners in the Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond number 58B 537340, winner lives in London (value of holding £97, £50,000, 17KZ 040761, Chester (holding £302); £25,000, 8FK 556134, Tisbury Wells (holding £10,000).

Local government plans 'alter every boundary'

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVERY county and district council in England will be abolished if government plans for local government reorganisation are implemented in full, according to a new study.

By applying the government's own criteria for change, a council lawyer has produced a municipal map of England in which 101 new councils would replace the existing 39 counties and 269 districts. Proposals announced in April call for the abolition of the existing two-tier structure of local government outside London and the metropolitan areas and its

replacement by a single tier of all-purpose authorities.

The government intends to appoint a new commission to oversee the reform process and has said that the views of local people will play an important part in deciding the future shape of local government.

Ministers have, however, already announced several principles that will govern the reshaping of council boundaries. Those include a requirement that authorities should cover populations of not less than 150,000 and that large towns should be in the same

district as their suburbs. The latter is not always the case at present. Cities such as Bristol and Nottingham have large areas of their suburbs governed by different councils to those which run the cities.

Ministers have also suggested that existing district council boundaries should be used where possible in drawing the outlines of the new council areas so that the new system can be introduced in stages.

By applying these criteria, Peter Rowell, senior lawyer with Preston borough council, Lancashire, has produced his map which allows for the revival of traditional county names that were abolished in the 1974 local government changes. Under his plan, east Yorkshire, or the East Riding, would be resurrected although without the city of Hull, which would remain its old county borough status providing all services.

Hampshire would be reborn with boundaries closely resembling those of the prime minister's parliamentary constituency and a new Worcester council would include most of the old county of Worcestershire.

Other county names to survive in the new system include Dorset, without Bournemouth, West Sussex, leaving out Worthing, East Sussex, excluding Brighton, and Hertfordshire, less St Albans and Watford.

Cumberland would emerge from Cumbria, Shropshire would remain although reduced in size and Durham would unite county and city.

The smallest of the new local authorities in terms of population would be the Isle of Wight with 127,000 inhabitants. The largest would be Nottingham, covering the city and a large part of the existing county, with 592,000 people.

Mr Rowell said: "We have all heard a great deal from the government about its proposals, but I have attempted to turn them into reality. Having been caught up in the last local government reorganisation myself I realise just how many problems it caused. People should begin to think about the implications of the new changes for their areas."

"We should all be thinking and talking about it now before it is too late. It is no use waiting until the decisions have been made and then complaining that we were not consulted."

Shires' gains may cost Labour seats

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is threatened with the loss of a number of seats in its traditional heartlands as a result of the review of parliamentary constituencies being carried out by the Boundary Commission.

Population changes and the exodus from urban and industrial areas could cost Labour up to 20 seats and see substantial Tory gains through additional constituencies being given to the shire counties.

The Boundary Commission is expected to start producing its draft proposals later this year, though the changes will not be introduced until after the general election. According to figures produced by the Commons Library it is estimated that the shire counties in England should gain 20 seats while greater London loses 13 and the metropolitan districts seven.

The figures, based on the theoretical entitlement of various areas to parliamentary constituencies, make bleak reading for Labour, which is working to broaden its appeal and win back support in southern England, where outside London, it holds only three seats. The figures show the substantial changes in population since 1976, the year on which the present boundaries are based, and the 1991. The electorate of the shire counties has risen by 13.4 per cent to 22.9 million, the metropolitan districts has declined by 3.1 million to 36 million and greater London by

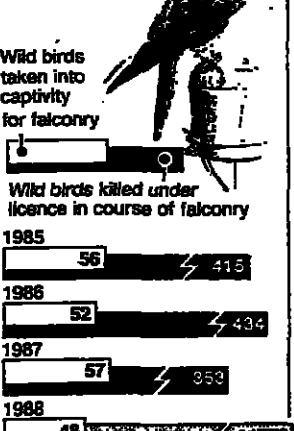
6.2 per cent to 4.9 million. In greater London, the figures suggest that among the 13 seats to disappear as a result of shifts in population would be constituencies in Barnet, Kensington and Chelsea, Newham, Greenwich, Bromley, Kingston, and Waltham Forest. Seven of the London seats affected would be Tory.

The figures, produced for Jeff Rooker, the Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, show that other urban areas would also lose seats, with Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham and Sandwell losing a total of seven seats. In the shires, where the size of the electorate has increased by 13.4 per cent to 22.9 million compared with 20.2 million in 1976, Hampshire is likely to gain two additional seats. Nineteen other counties would be expected to gain one seat.



Rooker: MP asked for figures to be produced

CALL TO END FALCONRY



Call to end falconry 'bloodsport'

By JOHN YOUNG

THE League Against Cruel Sports yesterday called for the abolition of the "ancient bloodsport" of falconry.

It cited a report it commissioned from Peter Robinson, former senior investigations officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, as evidence that the government has issued licences to falconers to kill thousands of protected birds, including skylarks, meadow pipits, song thrushes, fieldfares, and redwings.

In fact most of Mr Robinson's report is concerned with the welfare of birds of prey, including falcons, and the encouragement that the sport is said to give to illegal trading in wild birds and to thefts from nests.

Government figures show that just under 10,000 people in Britain are registered as keeping one or more live diurnal birds of prey.

In spite of a prohibition on sales, at least 3,735 live birds of prey and owls were sold openly in the period 1980-87, at a total value of nearly £700,000, the report says. Although there are greater controls on the possession of live birds of prey, robberies from the wild have continued more or less unchecked, particularly of peregrine falcons.

John Bryant, the League's wildlife officer, said yesterday the report showed that falconry "is virtually uncontrolled and conflicts with the conservation principles and the spirit of European legislation for bird protection".

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Pressure on Vlok to quit over fund to combat ANC

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SENIOR South African government ministers are under intense pressure to resign after further revelations that they donated £1 million to black political opponents of the African National Congress from an enormous slush fund for covert operations.

Reeling from disclosures that more than £50,000 was given secretly to the Inkatha Freedom party to counter the ANC, Pretoria now faces allegations that much larger sums were channelled over a period of years to a trade union affiliated to the conservative Zulu organisation.

Kobus Jordaan, a Democratic party MP, said at the weekend that he had documentary evidence that the small United Workers' Union of South Africa (Uwusa) received about £1 million in government funds before the ANC was unbanned in February last year.

Adrian Vlok, the minister of law and order, who is at the centre of the scandal, implicitly confirmed additional payments had been made, saying: "I really don't think it is anywhere near that amount. However, I don't want to speculate." The government's response that the secret funding was aimed at combating sanctions, rather than promoting Inkatha, has been met with incredulity and scorn across the political spectrum. Statements by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha president, that he knew nothing of the payments have been rejected with contempt.

Contradictory statements by Mr Vlok and Chief Buthelezi, undermined by memoranda from senior security police officers, have embroiled both parties in the worst dilemma faced by the reformist government of President de Klerk. Called the "Inkathagate" by the media, the affair has renewed controversy over other covert activities by the state security apparatus and tarnished Mr de Klerk's image.

R. F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, has been drawn into the scandal with an admission that he authorised donations to Inkatha and Uwusa from a foreign affairs special account, to which the cabinet had allocated "a certain sum of money" to combat sanctions. Mr Botha would not disclose how much cash had been disbursed, but the budget provides for £80 million for secret services.

Mr Vlok conceded yesterday that part of the security police reasoning for requesting funds for Inkatha rallies was to boost the organisation's waning support. He insisted, however, that "the main aim from the government's point of view was not party politics, it was aimed at sanctions". David Dalling, the Democrat party's spokesman on justice, summed up the prevailing

view when he said: "Mr Vlok's apology insults the intelligence of our citizens. I do not believe him. Nobody in his right senses would. It's an open-and-shut case of political corruption and misuse of public funds."

Whatever the rationale behind the funding, the truth is that while Mr de Klerk was unbanning the ANC and releasing Nelson Mandela, its leader, from prison, his government was bolstering the ANC's principal black political rival in defiance of the democratic principles Mr de Klerk espoused.

The liberal opposition, influential church leaders and newspaper editorials joined the ANC yesterday in demanding the dismissal of Mr Vlok and General Magnus Malan, the defence minister, who is deemed to be responsible for the conduct of the security forces in the Inkatha-ANC power struggle. The other prominent casualty is Chief Buthelezi, whose image as an independent black political leader is in tatters. He told reporters at his party's annual conference at the weekend that it was "bullshit" that he had ever signed receipts for clandestine funds — although a security police memorandum said he had been "very emotional" when he was given a copy of a receipt.

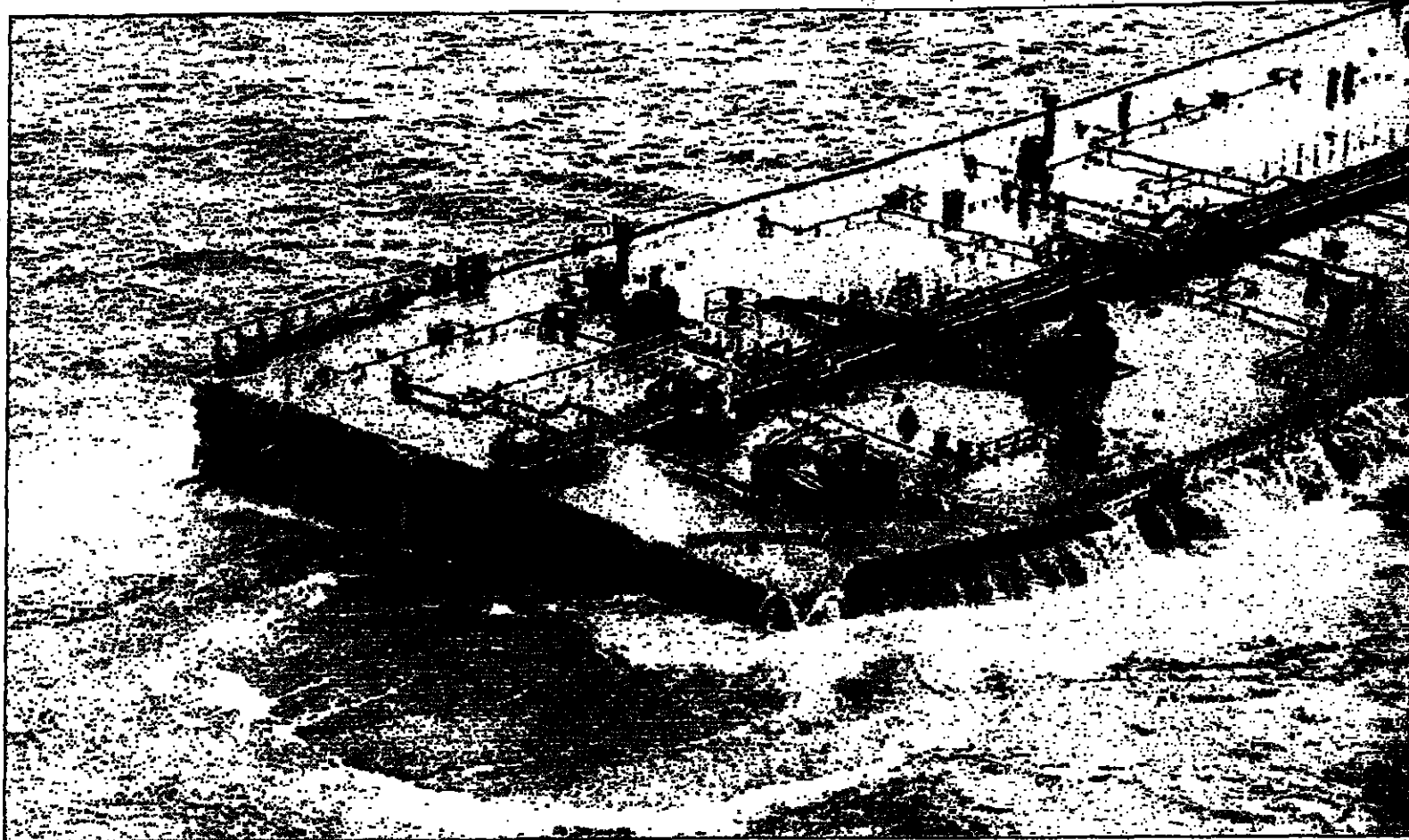
Mr Mandela's response has been restrained. Before leaving for Spain and Cuba, he



Vlok confirmed further payments had been made

issued only a low-key statement that negotiations with Pretoria could break down if it "continues with these criminal actions". Multiparty working groups established last month are planning to proceed with talks this week to formulate codes of conduct for political parties and the security forces. While the negotiations process may survive, the reformist credentials of the government may not.

Prague: The Czechoslovak government has decided to establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa, a foreign ministry official said at the weekend, making Prague the first capital in the former Soviet bloc to set up ambassadorial ties with Pretoria. (AFP)



Sea spill: the supertanker Kirki drifting ten miles off the coast of Western Australia after the bow section broke off, spilling an estimated 20,000 tonnes of light Arabian crude oil into a slick about seven miles long and half a mile wide. The ship has a further 60,000 tonnes on board

Pentagon spares Baltics in revised nuclear hit list

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Kremlin may be wooing the West, and the West may be fluttering its eyelashes in response, but the Pentagon remains almost impervious to such flirtation.

As President Bush prepares to fly to Moscow next week to sign the first treaty cutting the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals, American military planners are preparing a new list of 7,000 Soviet targets to be destroyed in the event of a nuclear war. The revised list, already approved by Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, contains about 3,000 fewer targets than it did during Ronald Reagan's presidency. It reportedly gives Mr Bush the option of sparing the Baltic republics and other restive regions considered unlikely to contribute to or escalate a nuclear war.

But that will be little comfort to the average Muscovite. A full-scale American attack, a scenario the planners apparently refer to as a "wargasm", would still annihilate the Russian federation with up to 5,000 warheads even though, in Boris Yeltsin, it now has a democratically-elected president who abhors communism and adores America.

According to *The Washington Post*, which disclosed details of the new list yesterday, the reduction has been achieved largely by eliminating all targets in Eastern Europe and because glasnost has enabled American intelligence to develop a better picture of Soviet military vulnerabilities. American missiles have also become much more accurate and some Soviet conventional and nuclear weaponry will be scrapped under the latest arms accords.

However, the new list "still exhibits the traditional caution of US war planners, maintaining Cold War features that some independent

experts say should now be changed," the paper said.

The list, which includes calculations of the size, number and trajectories of warheads required for each target, has been drawn up in a basement room at the Strategic Air Command in Omaha, Nebraska, on computer terminals containing detailed maps of Soviet military and other facilities. The starting point, according to the paper, is the National Target Base, an up-to-date list of everything and everyone deemed capable by American intelligence of furthering Soviet war aims, right down to schools that could serve as official shelters. From that the planners draw up a

priority list of the most important military installations which become "designated ground zeros".

As the planning becomes ever more sophisticated, so American options multiply. The briefcase, known as the "football" which is never more than a few yards from the American president, would allow Mr Bush to launch not only an all-out strike against the Soviet Union but also a range of limited strikes sparing, for example, Soviet cities, industrial sites or even sympathetic political leaders. To make the president's task still easier, the planners have prepared casualty estimates for each option.

Photograph opens Hanoi war wounds

FROM REUTERS IN HANOI

THE mystery photograph purporting to show that three American servicemen who went missing in the Vietnam war are still alive has reopened Vietnam's own war wounds.

Thirty years of fighting, first against the French, then against the South Vietnamese government and its American ally, tore apart the countryside, split families, and left 300,000 soldiers and guerrillas missing by official estimates. "We have so many MIAs (missing-in-action) and we know we will never see them again," said one retired Vietnamese army lieutenant this week. "They will never have tombs. But we have always said that that was war and we must accept that," he said after hearing reports of the photograph.

American records say that 2,273 servicemen never made

it home from the Vietnam war. Washington says the fate of only 62 is unresolved, involving men believed to have survived plane crashes or been taken prisoner. Vietnam says those men are dead.

People in Hanoi are bewildered by statements from relatives of the three Americans in the photograph, who were listed in Vietnamese and American files as killed in plane crashes in the 1960s, that the men are being held alive somewhere in Cambodia. "When we hear about those reports from the United States, we wonder how the Americans can be so glib," said the former lieutenant, asking not to be identified. "It is all a fiction."

Vietnamese say it hurts to talk about their own missing relatives. Most have no hope of finding their war dead.

Australia faces worst oil spill

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

INTERNATIONAL salvage experts have been flown in to stop the "environmental nightmare" threatening the Western Australian coast after the break-up yesterday of a Great Australian carrying 80,000 tonnes of crude oil. It is Australia's worst oil disaster and the authorities say the initial spill of 20,000 tonnes ten miles from the coast cannot be contained.

All 37 crew members of the 97,000 tonnes tanker Kirki were rescued by helicopters after the tanker caught fire and the entire bow section was swept away in appalling sea conditions. The West Australian Maritime Authority last night said the tanker was drifting within ten miles of the coast. An estimated 20,000 tonnes of crude oil has been released so far in a slick seven miles long and more than half a mile wide.

The tanker and the slick are reported to be drifting towards the coast in a north-easterly direction. Other vessels in the area went to the stricken tanker to try to transfer the remaining 60,000 tonnes of oil before it sinks or reaches land. But rough weather conditions were hampering the attempts and the authorities fear the

growing slick will reach the coast.

The Kirki broke up in the Indian ocean off Cervantes, about 100 miles north of Perth. It was carrying a full load of light Arabian crude, and had sailed from Singapore on its way to Kwinana in Western Australia. The fire was first noticed at 3am yesterday. Its flames were intense enough for the pilot of a Boeing 747 flying at 33,000ft to report seeing the blaze on his approach to Perth airport. The fire was later engulfed in the heavy sea.

By dawn the decision had been made to abandon ship. Severe weather conditions and rising seas turned the rescue operation into what was described as "a race against time" as air force and civilian rescue helicopters made repeated journeys from Cervantes to lift the crew from the rolling deck. The rescue was delayed by a shortage of fuel for the helicopters.

Richard Purkiss, of the Western Australian Marine and Harbours Authority, told ABC television: "The front end of the ship has in fact gone at No 1 tanks, and an unknown quantity of oil has escaped into the sea. It is a catastrophe-type proportion oil spill. That's the worst category you can possibly have. It is a major, major spill. That oil cannot be contained as it is now."

After reaching the safety of Cervantes on the last helicopter flight from the tanker, Captain Eleftherios Elefthopoulos, her commander, said: "Waves finished the fire, and many many times, five times, with the moving of the ship, it broke up."

An unnamed female survivor from the tanker said: "I felt that the ship was going to the bottom of the sea, and that I was going to go with it."



Elefthopoulos: captain of the stricken tanker

Castro wins pledge on ties

Castro — After enduring two days' criticism of Cuba, President Castro appeared to have gained most from the first Ibero-American summit meeting which ended in Mexico at the weekend. (Alan Tomlinson writes.)

The 18 other leaders from the region said they had "lit the flame" of Latin American integration but there was little in the summit declaration to suggest that any substantive form of unity would be achieved in the near future.

Dr Castro, the only uniformed dictator at a gathering of elected civilian heads of government, pocketed a protocol pledging renewed diplomatic relations with Colombia and Chile, one of the meeting's few tangible results.

Schoolboys held

Nairobi — Police have arrested 38 boys in connection with the deaths of 19 girls at a Kenyan Roman Catholic boarding school. The boys, aged between 14 and 19, could be charged with crimes ranging from disturbing the peace to manslaughter and murder. More boys are still being questioned by police. (AP)

Finance charge

Sydney — The secretary of the ruling Australian Labor party has been charged with breaching electoral laws by not disclosing thousands of donations. Bob Hogg said he had been summoned for failing to report donations to the party of more than \$A100,000 (£190,000). (Reuters)

Rail strike ends

Calais — Rail workers here and in Boulogne suspended a strike that had disrupted train services for more than two weeks and spread to other stations in northern France. Trade union sources said that a compromise had been reached with management on wages. (AFP)

Flooding threat

Dhaka — Unprecedented erosion from the flooded Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers has displaced 100,000 people and is endangering the lives of 50,000 others in four districts in central and southern Bangladesh. Government rescue workers have called in police and auxiliary forces.

Angolan leader

Luanda — Fernando Franco Van-Dunem, the Angolan planning minister, was appointed prime minister by President Dos Santos. The post of prime minister was revived in March after being abolished in 1977, although the president will decide what powers it will carry. (AFP)

Plane sailing

Stae, France — René Pozzelle, a fisherman, caught a wrecked Mirage fighter plane in his nets when trawling off his Mediterranean port. The aircraft crashed 11 years ago, with the pilot ejecting safely. Police said the wreckage was complete except for the tail and landing gear. (Reuters)

Yeltsin challenges communists with ban on workplace politics

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, the newly installed president of Russia, has made a head-on challenge to the Communist party by banning political groups from operating cells in factories, ministries and local government offices in his republic.

Under a presidential decree intended to take effect within 14 days, political meetings during working hours are banned and the Communist party offices that traditionally have been a feature of every workplace are supposed to close. The Russian leader also called on the republican legislature to consider asking the Soviet parliament to ban party cells in the security forces and the supreme court.

The decree, whose feasibility remains to be seen, represents a remarkably bold move by Mr Yeltsin after a week in which communist blocking



Public backing: Yeltsin plans to curb communists

tactics threatened to paralyse the work of the Russian legislature. The presence of communist cells in almost every Soviet enterprise, operating as a kind of shadow management and personnel department, has always been one of the most fundamental sources of the party's power.

The right to organise at the workplace also has a cherished place in communist ideology, which President Gorbachev has always strongly defended.

The Soviet president's reaction will be closely watched. On Thursday, Mr Gorbachev has to face a meeting of the central committee, whose decisions will have been exacerbated by the new decree.

In recent weeks, the Russian leader has gone out of his way not to offend Mr Gorbachev. He has backed the Soviet leader's economic diplomacy in London and given ground on the terms of the proposed union treaty linking the republics. So Mr Yeltsin's decree points either to a breakdown of his truce with the president, or to the possibility that Mr

Gorbachev has quietly given the green light for a new rolling back of the party's power. If the latter is true, it can only be because he intends sooner rather than later to call his communist critics bluff and abandon the Soviet Communist party leadership.

The decree says Russian officials must obey the government and the law, rather than party instructions, and bans questions about political affiliation on official forms. Yevgeny Krasnitsky, a central committee member, said in a telephone interview: "Although the decree does not mention specific parties, it is obviously aimed at the communists. But it will be hard to implement, or at any rate it will not last long because other parties are springing up and they too want to organize in the workplace."

The pace at which political movements are forming and regrouping at the reformist end of the spectrum is indeed hectic, as new groups position themselves to benefit from the mass defections from the Soviet Communist party that could follow a split.

Gavril Popov, mayor of Moscow and a founder of the Democratic Reform Movement, told a meeting of the radical umbrella group Democratic Russia that reformists must stop squabbling and unite in the face of the economic and social crisis.

Rome plays name that tax dodger

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

THERE are worried frowns to be seen on the bridges of motor yachts and under the beach umbrellas of the most exclusive seaside resorts. The Italian finance ministry has published the names of 240,000 ascertained tax evaders for 1983-5: a novel, if brutal, way of striking terror into the hearts of the comparatively large proportion of Italians who do not pay their taxes.

"The best is yet to come," announced Rino Formica, the finance minister, on Saturday, as computer discs with the names were distributed to the press. "From now on we will publish this information continuously," he said and promised more names this week.

The ministry's findings, which all Italian national newspapers are gleefully printing, show that Italy is not only a country in which tax evasion is almost an accepted national sport, and in this the labyrinthine complexity of the fiscal system is as much to blame as the population, but is also the home of countless, anonymous millionaires who declared themselves penniless. The high level of tax evasion certainly goes a long way to explaining the apparent wealth of Italians, which never fails to amaze visitors to this country.

At the top of the ministry's

hit parade is a "scrap metal" dealer from a small town near Milan who lives in a luxurious villa, owns two Ferraris and a hotel and restaurant on the Tuscan coast — but according to his tax returns is practically a pauper. The tax police have ascertained income of about £13 million in 1983-5.

Second by a short head is a man from Turin who according to his tax form earned nothing in 1984, but who the ministry says earned more than £12 million. Also named in the list are prominent showbusiness personalities, television journalists, footballers and even stylish Princess Irene Galitzine.

Signor Formica, heartily applauded by the unions, has vowed to carry on naming names in the hope of shaming and terrorising Italians into paying up. There is the suspicion, however, that many of these secret millionaires do not care what the ministry claims but are instead guilty of producing false invoices for others who wanted to reduce their taxable profits.

Most of these will have taken the precaution of putting all they possess under other people's names, so that it may be hard indeed for the finance ministry to extract the £8 million of taxes which the Milan "scrap dealer", for instance, owes to the state.

Race hate splits Croatian village

FROM TIM JUDAH IN PETRINJA, CROATIA

NOT knowing whether to laugh or to cry Katka Mandic sobbed and said of her son, Ivan: "He's the bravest boy in the world." It was Ivan's 12th birthday yesterday. He celebrated it in the cramped recreation room of Petrinja's home for the aged with other Croatian refugees from the village of Hrastovica. Asked if he had managed to bring with him his favourite toy, Ivan showed off two large, well-sharpened penknives. "He even goes to bed with them," Mrs Mandic said. "Of course," said Ivan. "What if someone tries to attack me?"

Families quarrelled while their old people sat listlessly on beds in the malodorous dormitory. "I don't want to fight," said Ivan's father, Michael Mandic. "I just want to go home and have what I had before."

Three Croat policemen were shot dead over the weekend and bombings and shootings continued unabated throughout Croatia. Petrinja,

33 miles southeast of Zagreb, is now on the front line. With roughly equal numbers of Serbs and Croats, Petrinja's population of 15,000 now lives in terror. Croats fear Serb militiamen from the Serb enclave of Krajina who are thrusting northwards and pushing Croats out of villages just south of Petrinja. The Serbs too have been sending their families to safety after attacks on their businesses.

Hrastovica, a mainly Croat village a few miles south of Petrinja, is surrounded by Serb villages. "I was coming back from the corner shop when the mortar shells began to fall," said Ivan Mandic. Soon 80 people from the village were evacuated. The Red Cross in Petrinja has registered 766 refugees from four villages in the past week. Five minutes' drive from the Red Cross station, the Serb-owned Sema Café has been riddled with bullets. "They shot at it on three nights," Nadia Sijmohodovic said. The last attack was on Friday. "The Serbs did it themselves to whip their own people up," she alleged.

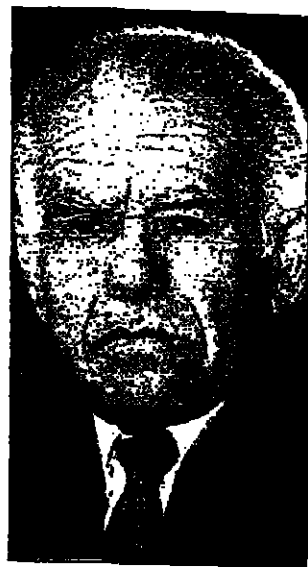
Belgrade's Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, yesterday accused Serbia of waging war against his country and said that Croatia would mobilise more people.

CONSULADO DE NICARAGUA

El Consulado General de Nicaragua hace un llamado a todos los ciudadanos nicaragüenses residentes en el Reino Unido, para que de conformidad con el decreto no. 28-91 del 28 de junio de 1991, procedan a tramitar pasaportes nuevos antes del 1ro de noviembre de 1991, fecha de caducación de los pasaportes emitidos con anterioridad al presente decreto. Favor llamar al (071) 5843231 o presentarse a 8 Gloucester Road, London SW7 4PP.

الرجاء ان يقرأ

Arab concessions pressure Shamir for territorial U-turn



Shamir: Ideology forged by the Holocaust

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, may well have allowed himself a slight chuckle yesterday when he picked up his copy of the *Jerusalem Post* and saw a front-page cartoon depicting his tiny frame next to a Red Indian chief.

"Yitzhak, let me tell you about trading land for peace," read the caption, in what was billed as a public service advertisement which had been placed by *Nativ*, a right-wing Hebrew journal.

Mr Shamir is unlikely to have given much thought lately to the fate of the Sinai and the broken treaties of the American plains. But he, like many of his cabinet colleagues, party members and right-wing constituents will identify

The positive response by Arab states to the American peace plan could lead to the fall of the Israeli government, writes Richard Beeston from Jerusalem

with the message that territorial compromise with Israel's Arab neighbours is not a step towards peace but rather a concession that the Jewish state cannot make if it wants to stay strong and independent.

The prime minister, aged 75, who prides himself on his cautious and unimaginative style of government, is being asked to break every guiding principle of his political ideology, forged in the aftermath of the Holocaust in his native Poland and in

the Jewish underground opposition to British rule in mandate Palestine.

"Shamir is an ideologue," said one of his close associates in the Likud party, the dominant partner in the most right-wing coalition government that the nation has known.

"He does not want to give up any land and certainly does not want to go down in history as the leader who gave away Judaea and Samaria [the biblical names for the West Bank, captured

from Jordan in 1967]." However, when James Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrived in Jerusalem last night for what may today emerge as a turning-point in the history of the Middle East, he brought an impressive array of concessions by three Arab states, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which until last week had been in a perpetual state of war with Israel.

A decade ago, in the epoch of Israel's Camp David agreement with Egypt, the offers to hold direct talks and to lift the 43-year trade embargo against the Jewish state would probably have clinched once and for all a lasting peace in the Middle East. But now that the Arabs

are willing to talk, it is a very different Israel which is being asked to listen.

Mr Shamir is under tremendous pressure from just about every influential country to put aside his ideological objections and begin dialogue. However, he is aware that the moment he agrees to meet the Arab states halfway, he can expect a powerful right-wing backlash that would probably split his party and cause the immediate resignation of three smaller right-wing partners in the coalition.

Any suggestion that Israel was prepared to give up the territories captured in the six-day war — the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and east Jerusalem — would be enough to trigger

a political crisis that would bring down the government and jeopardise the whole peace process.

Political pundits believe Mr Shamir has three options. First, he can agree to enter negotiations and, if he is deserted by the right wing, form a new national unity government with the opposition Labour party which supports trading land for peace.

Alternatively, he can stall Mr Baker by picking holes in the Arab position and raising fresh objections in the hope that this initiative, like the others before it, will eventually wither away.

Finally, if the level of American and international pressure becomes too great, he can call a general election

in the hope that the Israeli public will return Likud and the right with a greater majority not to give up any territory.

Politicians and political commentators were split yesterday on which of the three options he would choose, although they were in agreement that whatever he decides, this is going to be another long and difficult summer for the prime minister.

● Stabbing victim: Two Arabs stabbed an Israeli factory owner aged 60 in a Tel Aviv suburb yesterday. He was taken to hospital with multiple stab wounds. Police later arrested the two Arabs. (AP)

Baker confident, page 1

Bush emphasises Turkish role as cornerstone for US

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

PRESIDENT Bush met the Turkish president here yesterday with an underlying message that one of the cornerstones of his Middle East plans was a "strategic relationship" between America and Turkey.

Mr Bush and President Ozal discussed the Cyprus problem, Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the American president expressed optimism over the resolution of all three problems before taking time off for a cruise to the Bosphorus strait.

Mr Bush and his host were, in their public moments together, effusive in their mutual praise. One of the consequences of the Gulf war,

said one of Mr Bush's 600-strong entourage, was this strengthened US-Turkish alliance. "In Turgut Ozal Mr Bush has found a man with whom he can do business — a Muslim Margaret Thatcher," the aide said.

The American hope is that this special relationship will survive a general election in Turkey, which must be held before the autumn of 1992. Although Mr Ozal remains in office until 1997, the ruling Motherland party he had founded may not be so fortunate. Mesut Yilmaz, Turkey's newly appointed prime minister, has said that he would announce the date of the general election in September.

President Bush also met the leaders of Turkey's two main opposition parties.

But the Turkish Cypriot lobby in Ankara appears to have taken umbrage because, while in Greece, Mr Bush had failed to refer to Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot president. However, at a joint press conference with President Ozal on Saturday, President Bush did much to pacify his Turkish critics by emphasising a commitment to United Nations resolution 649 which speaks of political equality between the two sides in the Cyprus quarrel.

President Bush also backed a Turkish plan for direct talks between the parties. A solution to the problems of Cyprus could not be imposed but had to be achieved through the negotiations of reasonable men.



Diplomatic circles: President Bush, left, talking to President Ozal of Turkey as whirling dervishes dance in front of the Topkapi palace in Istanbul yesterday during the American leader's weekend visit to Turkey. Mr Bush praised Turkey's role in backing the allies in the Gulf war



Cyprus resolution tantalises America

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

DIPLOMATS in Nicosia joke that in his desire to notch up one concrete success for the new world order, President Bush is showing unprecedented interest in Cyprus without quite realising that while the island is small, its problem is every bit as big as the Arab-Israeli one.

The "green line" that divides Greece from Turkish Cypriot has outlasted the one in Beirut and has proved more durable than the miles of concrete that split Berlin. Mutual suspicion is compounded by ancient Greek and Turkish demands as both communities demand one-sided sympathy from the outside world.

The Turkish Cypriot minority says it fears political and economic domination by Greek Cypriots. For their part, the Greek Cypriots say that it is quite unfair that an 18 per cent minority should hold 37 per cent of the island while Turkish troops enforce the separation.

In Athens on Thursday, Mr Bush said that there was an "historic opportunity" to solve the problem this year, urging the two NATO allies Greece and Turkey to "heal the deep wound that scars Cyprus". It was the first time that Mr Bush had mentioned a deadline, although he said that he had no "magic wand" to bring about a solution.

The Greek Cypriot press reacted with a mixture of cautious optimism and scorn. Summing up the most common view, an English-language newspaper said: "A magic wand is hardly necessary. Any kind of stick, large or small would do, if only the US president would merely declare he was ready to use it to prod Turkey toward implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus." UN resolutions have called for the withdrawal of 30,000 Turkish troops from the island and the return of Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes.

Many Greek Cypriots accuse Mr Bush of hypocrisy for using force to liberate Kuwait, while being unwilling to pressure Turkey into complying

with UN resolutions. These sentiments were reinforced on Saturday night when Mr Bush, in Ankara, backed Turkey's proposals for a four-way summit on Cyprus, involving Turkey, Greece, and the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

Greece and Cyprus have already rejected this, saying it would give effective recognition to the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus by allowing Rauf Denktas, its leader, to attend as a political equal to President Vassiliou. They wanted a full-scale conference attended by the five permanent members of the security council. Diplomats hope all parties will fudge the details of protocol so a conference can start.

As if to smooth ruffled Greek Cypriot feathers in advance, Mr Bush in recent statements twice praised Mr Vassiliou as an "extraordinary man" while failing to mention Mr Denktas' name. "Do you know this man, Mr Bush?" asked a Turkish newspaper on Saturday in a caption under a photograph of the Turkish Cypriot leader.



Yilmaz will decide date of crucial elections

UN 'to authorise Iraqi sale of oil'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations sanctions committee is moving towards approving the first sale of Iraqi oil since last September.

Diplomats say the committee is likely to authorise a one-off sale of as much as \$1.5 billion (about £940 million) worth of Iraqi crude. The proceeds will enable Iraq to pay essential supplies, and to meet some of its obligations under the UN ceasefire resolution.

The sanctions committee will today hear a report from Prince Saddamuddin Aga Khan, the chief UN aid co-ordinator, who has recommended that Iraq be allowed to sell its oil, under careful UN monitoring, to avert mass starvation.

Prince Saddamuddin said in a written report last week that Iraq needed \$2.6 billion to establish a "greatly reduced level of services".

He suggested that Iraq could raise the money "either by the unfreezing of substantial amounts of Iraqi assets now held abroad or through the pumping and subsequent international sale of oil".

Western governments appear sympathetic to Iraq's humanitarian needs, but doubt whether Baghdad should be allowed to fund the rehabilitation of its power generation and oil industries. Western diplomats say that any one-off oil sale will also have to finance some Iraqi obligations under the UN

ceasefire resolution.

Last week, the UN secretary-general recommended that the proceeds of such a sale should be used to pay for the UN effort to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is obliged to pay half the cost of UN demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait. Baghdad has to meet some of the expenses of UN officials arranging the return of Kuwaiti property. A percentage of the proceeds of any oil sale will have to be diverted into the UN compensation fund from which Iraq will meet war claims.

● Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein pardoned all political prisoners and exiles except military officers yesterday, the official Iraqi news agency INA said. The ruling Revolution Command Council said it was declaring the amnesty because Iraq was moving towards a new phase "based on popular participation in government and political pluralism".

Ahmad Hussein al-Khodair, Iraq's foreign minister has said that troops have been sent to the southern marshlands but would not attack Shia Muslim fugitives. In a letter to Prince Saddamuddin, published in the government newspaper *Al-Jamhuriya*, Mr Khodair said they were in the area to prevent infiltration from Iran. (Reuters)

Canadian looks to enclave cordiale

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

THE simmering question of Canada's unity and Quebec's threatened separation over constitutional differences has taken a novel twist, with a proposal to create an autonomous Duchy of Pontiac on the banks of the Ottawa river, within predominantly French-speaking Quebec province.

The idea is largely the brainchild of Fred Ryan, the editor and proprietor of the *Pontiac Journal*, a fortnightly newspaper in Fort Coulonge, 65 miles northwest of Ottawa.

The proposed duchy comprises Pontiac county, on the east side of the Ottawa, which forms the boundary between Quebec and Ontario. The county's population of 21,000 has approximately equal numbers of French and English speakers.

Mr Ryan says he has been flooded with letters and telephone calls, nearly all offering encouragement, since outlining the proposal in an editorial last month. One letter was from a Russian-born Ontario

girl, Alexandra Ilona Iola, aged 25, who identified herself as an unemployed princess whose ancestors were Polish princes, Russian gentry, British gentlemen and Ukrainians, and pronounced herself available for the job of figurehead ruler of Pontiac. "Having a charming duchy within Canada sounds exciting," she wrote. Mr Ryan did not rule out her candidacy, but said his intention was to petition the Queen to name a duke and duchess.

Mr Ryan, who is president of the Pontiac Business and Tourism Association, said the movement to create a duchy is not directly linked to the question of Quebec's separation from Canada. "It's not that at all," he said. The movement stemmed from a widespread feeling among Pontiac residents that the region's forestry-based economy had been systematically plundered by both the provincial and federal levels of government. He said that while Pontiac would run its internal affairs — with its own banking system — it would remain a part of Quebec.

Mr Ryan and a committee working with him hope to make their approach to the Queen this autumn. "I don't see why she wouldn't act," he said, brushing aside the matter of the Quebec and federal governments' almost certain opposition to the initiative.

Saddam's aide sees US doctors

New York — Nizar Hamdoun, the Iraqi minister believed to have masterminded President Saddam Hussein's televised encounter with British hostages last year, is in New York, apparently to have treatment for cancer of the lymph nodes (James Bone writes).

Mr Hamdoun, the deputy foreign minister, said that he suffered from Hodgkin's disease and needed a check-up. He described his trip as "a personal and private thing", adding: "Saddam has nothing to do with it. I just applied for a visa and came here."

An American official said that Mr Hamdoun's visa had been issued on the understanding that he would not engage in political activity. His arrival sparked speculation that he might be seeking political asylum.

Succession fears

San Salvador — The ruling Arena party in El Salvador faces a power struggle after the announcement that Roberto d'Aubuisson, its founder, has terminal cancer. A succession battle could destabilise the country at a critical point in talks between left-wing rebels and the government. (Reuters)

Relief march

Colombo — A relief column of more than 2,000 soldiers has resumed marching towards a Sri Lankan army camp at Elephant Pass which is besieged by Tamil rebels, military sources said. More than 750 rebels and 75 troops have been killed in 11 days of fierce fighting there. (Reuters)

Stormin' back

Cairo — General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander in the Gulf war, said after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt that he was returning to the Gulf to inspect remaining American troops. The general later left for Saudi Arabia as part of a Middle East tour. (Reuters/APF)

Joints jumping

Halifax, Nova Scotia — The manager of a New York health food store, Ashrita Furman, aged 36, set up a new world record for knee bends, or squats. His total 2,693 in an hour broke his previous world best by 142. He holds ten world records, including walking 30 miles with a full milk bottle on his head. (Reuters)

YELLOWSTONE NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

Wagons with knobs on blaze Wild West trail

There we were, picnicking in Yellowstone, when the sun was obliterated by a mobile home the size of a tourist bus. Down went the electric step. Out hopped a couple with two small children. Leaving us in the shade, they laid out a dainty chilled luncheon for themselves on the sunny next-door table.

There was a time, not so very long ago, when the only wheels in Wyoming were on wagon trains. Today, like all other Rocky Mountain states, it is overrun by six-wheeled recreational vehicles — RVs — monstrous contraptions up to 40ft long.

They clog up the roads, clog up national parks, turn bacchanal campsites into parking lots. On the

gentlest incline you will be trailing a motorhome that will grind at 20 mph to the top of a 10,000ft pass.

So excessively long are the biggest of these vehicles that their dashboards boast closed-circuit television screens linked to rear-view cameras. Even so, the drivers seem oblivious to the 20 cars behind them, for they rarely pull over. Nor is it any good overtaking. There will invariably be more RVs in front, many towing the cars they use at night to turn around in. In Saratoga, Wyoming, we spotted one pulling a jeep pulling an outsize speedboat.

No special licence is needed to drive these juggernauts, and the RV magazine *Highways* reports that the average age of their owners

is 63.1 years. Last year 293,115 tourists visited Yellowstone in RVs, exacerbating chronic traffic congestion to the point where Malcolm Wallop, Wyoming's senator, is calling for a moratorium.

In America, according to the RV dealers' association, there are now nine million licensed RVs, with annual sales of new ones approaching 400,000.

RV owners arouse the sort of disdain amongst camping purists of the tent-and-sleeping-bag variety that the golfer feels for clock-golf players, that the fly-fisherman feels for those who catch their fish in trout farms. They are impervious to cold, mud, rain, gales, smoky fires, lukewarm gritty coffee, animals that steal food and all the other delights of outdoor life. They have not so much tamed the "Wild West" as excluded it.

Arriving in campsites, they level their RV by computer, plug into one of the local cable television sockets now offered by most commercial sites, turn on the "porch" light and settle down for the evening inside their temple of self-indulgence.

Not for them an annual return to basics and spiritual regeneration. Top-of-the-range RVs come with air-conditioning, hot and cold water, two televisions, a video-recorder, an eight-speaker sound system, a fridge, a freezer, a cooker, a microwave, a coffeemaker, a

sofa, easy chairs, oak cabinets, a master bedroom with full-length mirrors and bedside lamps, a shower, a lavatory, two basins, fitted carpets and power-this, that and everything else. At \$80,000 (£48,000) or so they cost more than many rural homes and are conspicuously more comfortable.

I protest in vain, of course. There will be no curbs on this blight. The RV lobby in Washington is far too strong. Last year Congress excluded RVs from the luxury tax that it imposed on cars — mostly foreign — costing half as much. In 1986, on the ground that RVs had kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms, Congress was persuaded to give their owners mortgage interest tax relief.

Promise of a British brains trust

David Tytler reports from a meeting at Highgrove House where the Prince of Wales invited educationalists and industrialists to work together to capitalise commercially on innovation

The businessman stood in the Prince of Wales's garden with the royal standard flying on the roof of Highgrove House behind him and came to the right conclusion: "This could only happen in England. The players on the same side have been called to the Prince's castle so that they can meet each other."

The castle was a white and gold marquee in a rather soggy field in Gloucestershire, immediately opposite the house. The players were 200 academics and industrialists summoned, along with civil servants and a government minister, so that the Prince could very

'If you do not find the solutions you will make me look very foolish'

polite knock their heads together. Britain, said the Prince, had too often stood on the brink of a technological revolution only to see it wither away for lack of commercial development. In the Sixties, there was talk of the white heat of technology; a decade later "we watched hopefully for the sun to rise on our high technology industries". The Prince observed: "We fail to realise the full potential of these moments. Other nations on the whole take the hint and see their growing economies fuelled by innovation."

Wishing to offend nobody, the Prince emphasised that business and academia would have to get together for their own sakes and for the benefit of Britain. Unless new ideas, discoveries and inventions were turned into commercial

products that people wanted to buy and use, Britain would fall further behind Germany, North America and Japan.

The notion is not new, but the idea that the time has come to stop talking about the problems and that somebody is prepared to put his reputation on the line is. As the Prince told his guests: "If you do not find the solutions you will make me look very foolish." He does not pretend to have the answers, but he believes he can act as a focus, at least making sure that people will listen to the arguments and then take action.

Last week's conference was in line with the Prince's hope for protection of the world environment and a better education service for all the people of Britain. This, he believes, can be achieved only if those who should know better put special pleading to one side, and work together to improve the economic health of the nation. In the end, he said, this can come about only if Britain makes the best use of its brains - obvious, but somehow overlooked by many.

A survey carried out for the Prince by the management consultancy McKinsey showed that too often both sides have quite different expectations. Higher education primarily saw industry as an important source of funding, while industry relied more on its own research and development programmes, although industrialists could see a bigger role for



Royal appointment: the Prince of Wales meets guests at the Highgrove conference

higher education institutions in the future.

Academics are also reluctant to give up their traditional right to publish new research in their own time, for the world at large. They are not keen to pass on research for the exclusive use of a commercial company. By definition a secret new industrial process stays hidden away. Academics, it seems, prefer the respect of their peers to the promise of personal wealth. Nearly four out of ten believe, according to McKinsey, that publishing research is more important than turning it into a commercial success.

The royal concern stems from the Prince of Wales's award for innovation, which started in 1981

in conjunction with the BBC programme *Tomorrow's World*. The Prince said: "I have seen world-class examples of British inventiveness pass through the award scheme only to be disappointed, along with their inventors, by their lack of success."

"We have not identified and built on our strength and advantages, one of which is certainly our scientific creativity and inventiveness. This lack of commitment and focus has been reflected in a number of well recognised ills, including under-investment in innovation and a stop-go approach to research and development by both the corporate sector and government."

Alan Howarth, the junior min-

ister responsible for higher education, who was at the Highgrove conference, was keen to portray the government as already embarking on programmes to bring academia and industry closer together, but he accepted that more could be done and welcomed the move by the Prince.

There are, of course, instances of good cooperation between higher education and business in Britain, but as the Prince said: "The problem is that there are too few examples." He favours projects such as that operating in Pennsylvania, in the United States, where 128 academic institutions and 2,500 private companies collaborate in an initiative that has created about 10,000 jobs.

One of the best British examples is a project by Johnson Matthey, Rolls-Royce and the trade and industry department to produce a fuel cell based on platinum catalysts. The department brought the companies together and is now working with them to bring in a higher education institute to complete the team, "an active role that is vital for government to perform", the Prince says.

After the conference, a working party has been set up under Sir John Fairclough, the chairman of the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology, to report by the end of the year.

A chemical fast reactor

THE organisers of the annual chemical olympiad for schools do not lag behind world events. Competing with Britain's best last week were the representatives of Slovenia, not Yugoslavia, and Lithuania, rather than the Soviet Union. China again recorded the best performances in the ten hours of practical and theoretical tests, and Britain finished ninth out of the 30 competitors.

Britain's respectable record in the competition, held this year at Lódz, Poland, was maintained by four teams from independent schools. Quartets from schools in Warwick and Cheshire, took silver medals, while Nottingham High and Bluecoat school, in Liverpool, won bronze.

Sweet talking

MALE students and teaching staff in Dudley, in the West Midlands, could face disciplinary action for addressing female colleagues as "darling" or "sweetheart" under sex discrimination guidelines to be considered tomorrow. Ron Westbury, the chief education officer, says that patronising pet names could be offensive because they implied a sexual relationship. Staff will be asked to accept the guidelines as part of their contracts if the education committee approves Mr Westbury's report.

New service

HENLEY management college, the oldest business school in Britain, is making its own contribution to the improvement of public services with a specially tailored Master of Business Administration course. The college has joined the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to offer the course to public service managers by distance learning.

Repeat move

THE United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs (UKCOSA), which began its annual conference in Manchester yesterday, is about to lose its second director in five years to the South Bank polytechnic, London. Andy Mashiter will become the polytechnic's head of marketing services next month, joining his predecessor at UKCOSA, Ru-

pert Bristow, who is the head of student services. Move Bristow, who has been UKCOSA's deputy director since completing her term as the president of the National Union of Students last year, will take over. Alastair Niven, who chairs the council's executive committee, said Ms Bristow, a Dubliner, was an appropriate choice for the role up to 1992 because she had been a national of another European country who studied in Britain.

In the news



WHILE his contemporaries at Oxford university are worrying about finding a job after they graduate, Krishnan Guru-Murthy (above) has just landed a plum job a year before he is due to leave Hertford college.

The 21-year-old politics, philosophy and economics undergraduate has been chosen as the new presenter of the BBC's children's news programme, *Newsround*. He will appear during holidays for the rest of the year, joining the staff permanently after graduation.

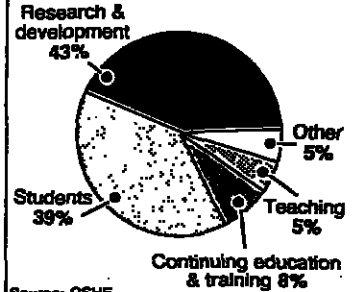
Mr Guru-Murthy has appeared on a variety of programmes since 1988.

Islamic gift

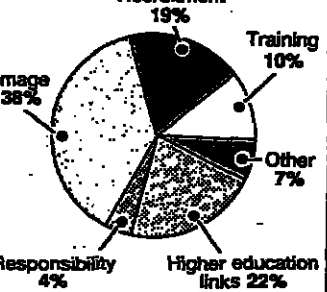
ST DAVID'S University College Lampeter has received £500,000 from the United Arab Emirates to set up an Islamic studies centre in west Wales. The largest windfall in the former Church of England college's history will pay for lecturing posts, a mosque and Arabic teaching materials. An Islamic studies department was established in the theology school five years ago with finance from Qatar and Bahrain. With 40 undergraduates and 24 postgraduate students, including many from the Gulf states, it has become Britain's fastest-growing Islamic department.

JOHN O'LEARY

SPENDING BY BUSINESS ON HIGHER EDUCATION £83m

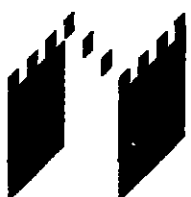


REASONS BUSINESS SUPPORTS STUDENTS



EDUCATION

POLYTECHNIC



NEWCASTLE POLYTECHNIC

Newcastle Business School

Head/Professor Ref A44/51

Salary: £30,801 - £33,000 p.a. (under review)

Newcastle Business School (NBS) is one of the leading centres for business and management education in the UK which has been recognised by PCFC with the award of Outstanding Quality rating in all study modes.

The NBS has over 3,000 students and 130 academic staff involved in a wide range of innovative programmes and collaborative ventures. The NBS has the status of a Faculty in the Polytechnic and functions as an integrated unit organised on non-departmental lines, with staff belonging to Course Teams and Subject Divisions.

The Director of the NBS and the Heads in the NBS form the NBS Executive which manages and co-ordinates the work of the School. In addition to sharing the strategic management of the School, currently each Head in the NBS:

- is responsible for a group of cognate courses within the NBS;
- provides academic leadership in one or more areas of business and management;
- is responsible for the staff in one or more of the Divisions in the NBS.

Expansion of activity has led to the creation of an additional post in the NBS at Head of Department level.

Candidates for this post will need to demonstrate academic leadership of the highest order, a broad experience of business and management education, and the personal qualities required to work with a high quality group of staff in a challenging and rapidly changing environment.

The title of Professor may be conferred on appointment if the successful candidate satisfies the Polytechnic's criteria.

Potential applicants can discuss the post on a confidential basis with Professor Don Cassells, Director of the Newcastle Business School on (091) 232 6002 Ext 3301.

Closing date: 9 August 1991.

This Polytechnic is committed to equality of opportunity. We positively welcome applications from women, black people, people with disabilities.

For details and application forms please ring (091) 232 3126 during office hours or write to the Recruitment Section, Personnel Department, Newcastle Polytechnic, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6ST, where completed forms should be returned by the closing date.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OXFORD COLLEGE LECTURESHIP IN MODERN HISTORY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified men and women for a two-year College Lectureship in Modern History (19th and 20th century British and European), with effect from 1st January 1992. The Lectureship involves up to twelve hours teaching a week, and candidates should be prepared to engage in research and to participate in undergraduate admissions.

Salary will be on an incremental scale of £12,690 (at age 26) - £14,740, together with certain benefits and allowances.

Applications, with details of career and publications and the names of three referees, should be sent to the College Secretary, St. John's College, Oxford OX1 3JP, from whom further particulars may be obtained. The closing date for applications is 23rd August 1991.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD TRENT REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL DEAN

Applications are invited from clinically qualified candidates for the above joint appointment between the University of Sheffield and Trent Regional Health Authority. The post is available from 1 October 1991.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, The University, P O Box 594, Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2UH (telephone 0742 768555 Ext 4144), to whom applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be returned by 16 August 1991. Ref MAP419/A.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

EDUCATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NASUWT STATEMENT LYNDHURST COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, GATESHEAD.

Three teachers in the above have been nominated by the Governors for redundancy. As a result, the NASUWT has now declared a formal dispute with the school.

The School has now advertised for a full-time teacher for Science and a full-time teacher for Special Needs along with two part-time appointments for Music and Art.

We are, therefore, inviting all teachers not to apply for these advertised posts.

LECTURESHIPS

The Queen's University of Belfast SCHOOL OF LAW

Applications are invited for the following lectureships, available from 1 September 1991, or such other date(s) as may be arranged.

COMMON LAW (L0342)

The successful applicant will be asked to teach core legal subjects including Criminal Law and the law of Contract. Applicants must have a good honours degree in law or in another relevant discipline, eg. philosophy, and be prepared to contribute to the teaching of a range of subjects including Legal Research and other jurisprudential courses. Applications will be particularly welcome from applicants with post-graduate qualifications and/or experience of teaching and research at university level. An interest in information technology may be an advantage.

JURISPRUDENCE (L0445)

Available from 1 October 1991 or such other date as may be arranged. Applicants must have a good honours degree in law or in another relevant discipline, eg. philosophy, and be prepared to contribute to the teaching of a range of subjects including Legal Research and other jurisprudential courses. Applications will be particularly welcome from applicants with post-graduate qualifications and/or experience of teaching and research at university level. An interest in information technology may be an advantage.

PUBLIC LAW (L0660) (Senior Lectureship or Lectureship)

Applicants must have a good honours degree in law, or a good honours degree in another discipline together with a professional legal qualification, and have experience of teaching and research at university level. They must have, or be prepared to develop, teaching and research interests in European Community Law and Civil Law. An interest in international law would be an advantage.

Salary scales: Lecturer Grade A: £12,690 - £17,592 (minimum at age 27 or over: £14,172) or, should suitably qualified applicants be presented, Lecturer Grade B: £13,320 - £23,427 per annum. Senior Lecturer: £24,597 - £27,795; with eligibility for USS. Assistance with relocation is appropriate. Further particulars, please quote ref. S1/T/D may be obtained from the Personnel Office, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN (telephone (0232) 245133 ext. 3044 or FAX (0232) 324544).

Closing date: 16 August 1991.

The University is an Equal Opportunity employer.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Lectureship

Applications are invited for the above post, to develop both teaching and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design. The School has a reputation in this area which it seeks to maintain and enhance. Applicants should preferably have formal qualifications or research experience in CAD. The School wishes to integrate the teaching of CAD with the teaching of design, so applicants able to contribute to the teaching of architectural design in the studio would have an advantage. The appointee will also be expected to contribute to a new modular Masters' course beginning in 1992. Salary within the scale £12,690 - £23,427 pa (under review) according to qualifications and experience.

The School has Apollo, Macintosh and MS-DOS computers and maintains a link with GABLE CAD Limited. There is an existing research team with interests in Intelligent Building Models, CAD Interface Design, Hypertext and Design Assistants, Expert Systems.

It is hoped to hold interviews by 4 October. The appointee will be expected to take up the post no later than 1 January 1992.

Further details from Director of Personnel Services, The University, PO Box 594, Firth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH (tel: 0742 768555 ext. 4144), to whom applications including a full CV and the names/addresses of three referees (six copies of all documents) should be sent by 25 September 1991. Ref: R1144.A.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL LECTURESHIPS IN THE LAW SCHOOL

Applications are invited for a number of continuing and fixed term appointments in the Law School. Applications will be considered in all fields of law. Starting dates by negotiation.

Salary on the Lecturer scale £12,690 - £17,592/£18,328 - £23,427 pa (British scales pending negotiated settlement). Interested persons are invited to discuss the appointments with Mr R Smith on 0482 465750 or Professor F von Prondzyk on 0482 465237.

Applications (6 copies or 1 from candidate overseas) by cv, together with details of two academic referees should be sent to the Senior Personnel Officer (Ref L1), University of Hull, HULL HU6 7TS from whom further particulars may be obtained (0482 465250 - recruitment answer phone).

CLOSING DATE: 29 AUGUST 1991

POSTS

ST MARY'S SCHOOL CALNE, WILTSHIRE SN11 0DF



Applications are invited for the post of BURSAR

of this School (318 girls aged 11-18, mainly boarders) and St Margaret's School (the Junior School - 100 day girls and boys, aged 4-11).

The appointment is for 1 December, 1991.

Applicants must have experience of, and a high degree of competence in, financial matters, accounting and administration.

Further details may be obtained from: The Clerk to the Governors, St Mary's School, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 0DF

Closing date for applications is 17 August 1991.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL BURSAR

Independent girls' preparatory school in North West London seeks a part-time BURSAR. The appointment may suit someone recently retired, perhaps a former banker or civil servant with accounting experience, not necessarily qualified. Flexible working hours, some attendance during school holidays.

Application to Box No. 4515.

GYOSEI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A Japanese boarding school with boys and girls from age 10 to 18 requires

JAPANESE SPEAKING MATRONS

Applicants should be fluent in Japanese and have Japanese Teaching Certificates

Salary commensurate with age and experience

PLEASE WRITE TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, BRICKHILL STREET, WILLEN PARK, MILTON KEYNES, BUCKS.



Consumer culture: parents and teachers protest about education cuts in Lewisham, south London. The government says the citizens' charter will extend their rights

Authorities fear parents' charter

Today's announcement of new rights for parents in the government's citizens' charter will bring confirmation, if any were needed, that the old order in education is about to change rapidly.

Two new appointments in as many weeks at the head of the bodies overseeing the national curriculum are to be followed by the fostering of a new consumer culture that pits schools of all types against each other in competition for pupils. Unwilling local authorities will be obliged to publish league tables of the performance of all the schools in their area, offering for the first time stark comparisons between maintained, private and opted-out schools.

Many of the educational items in the citizens' charter have been announced already, but all are intended to add to the impression of a government getting to grips with a failed system. Lord Griffiths, installed only last week as chairman of the Schools Examination and Assessment Council, is expected to bring back more traditional testing, while David Pinner, the new chairman of the National Curriculum Council, streamlines what pupils are taught.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, is beginning to take the

The citizens' charter is seen as another threat to the power of local education chiefs. John O'Leary reports on moves to centralisation

bullish line with the education establishment that made his name at the health department. Her Majesty's Inspectorate will have a new relationship with government, and local education authorities will become progressively less important as opting out increases, and further education colleges become independent. The calculation is that an unprecedented degree of centralisation will be accepted by a public that has lost confidence in the education service.

Nowhere is the new mood felt more keenly than in the local authorities. "Where have all our powers gone?" sang the councillors and education officers in an impromptu cabaret at their conference in Exeter last week.

Michael Fallon, the junior education minister, was given almost as frosty a reception by the Conservative group of the Council of Local Education Authorities as Tim Eggar, his minister of state, endured when he was heckled by the conference as a whole. Nine Tory-controlled councils from the southeast of England had written

to the prime minister only the previous day, asking him to reconsider policies that would remove their responsibility for the education service.

The immediate cause of their anxiety was the government's white paper pledge to give further education and sixth form colleges independence, creating a new

'The calculation is that centralisation will be accepted by a public that has lost confidence'

funding council to plan a national system. The emphasis given to grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges represented an even greater threat.

The late cancellation of an appearance at the conference by Mr Clarke served only to convince many of the low esteem in which they were held. Most were reassured by Mr Eggar's

speech, which said that education authorities would "for some time" be responsible for funding the majority of schools.

Howard Davies, the controller of the audit commission, invited to sketch out a role for the authorities, lightheartedly likened his theme to "an Englishman's guide to winning Wimbledon or filling in your tax form the royal way".

He said that the authorities were unloved and unwanted and warned his audience: "A future Conservative government might find the dynamic of its policies driving it towards different structures." He added that Labour policy statements also indicated a desire for a new relationship between central and local government.

The message was not lost on the local authority leaders in Exeter, although few were prepared to give up the fight to keep their further education colleges. Stephen Byers, who chairs the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said: "I think there is now a recognition that the time has come to redefine our role

in a changing world." So far, however, there is little agreement on what such a role should comprise.

Sir Christopher Ball, the author of two studies on post-16 education for the Royal Society of Arts, favours the transfer of responsibilities to new regional authorities, leaving only primary schools under local control. He forecasts growing intervention from Brussels in further and higher education, and argues that new technologies and improved transport links have made the present boundaries too small.

Robert McCloy, the chief executive of Kingston, Surrey, has called for the formation of an "education commonwealth", which might cover a larger area than the existing authorities and include training and enterprise councils. Local authorities would take the lead in a free association providing a forum for debate.

Mr Davies is not convinced, however, that even such a pooling of talent will be enough to survive Mr Clarke's reforming zeal. His advice to the authorities is to try to turn the citizens' charter to their own advantage, taking on the role of consumer's champion and emphasising their regulatory function.

Cash-cut threat to adult classes

The government wants people on leisure courses to pay the full economic price

Nothing in the government's white papers on post-16 education has provoked as much public reaction as the proposed withdrawal of funding for the so-called recreational adult education courses.

MPs have received so many letters that Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has sent his Conservative colleagues a briefing on the government's policy. Last week Lady David, the Labour peer, added to the pressure on ministers by instigating the second House of Lords debate on the subject in a month.

Under the government's proposals, local authorities would receive only limited funding to run courses that are deemed to cater for recreation or leisure interests, which range from handicrafts to literature. Although there would be government money to subsidise courses in areas of hardship, support would normally be available only for vocational subjects, or those concentrating on basic skills. Some education authorities have moved already to the policy of full-cost fees, which ministers advocate for all such courses.

Even Labour boroughs in London, where adult education has been a source of pride in the past, have been compelled to cut courses because of financial pressures.

Mr Clarke's letter to MPs says: "We think it right that the government should offer financial support for a broad range of provision, particularly for courses aimed at improving skills and offering academic and vocational qualifications. Recreation and leisure courses also make a significant contribution to provision for adults, and the cost of these courses should be met as far as possible from student fees."

Critics argue, however, that the distinction between different types of courses is artificial. Roger Fieldhouse, the professor of adult and continuing education at Exeter university, says: "The 3.6 million people who attend these courses often go on to vocational or academic courses. We run the risk not only of denying them

these opportunities but of damaging other provision as well."

Lady David, who fears that the damage will be compounded by the imposition of VAT on recreational courses, has supporters on both sides of the Lords.

Lord Beloff, the Conservative educationist, is worried that traditional liberal arts courses will be lost. "Ministers keep talking about flower arranging, but I am concerned for people who seriously want to learn about the contemporary world," he says. "The new arrangements would mean a major departure from the subsidised service."

The normally low-profile world of adult education has been stung into action by the prospect of widespread course closures as students are priced out of classes. Tutors and administrators believe that the students will not bear the economic price they will be expected to charge.

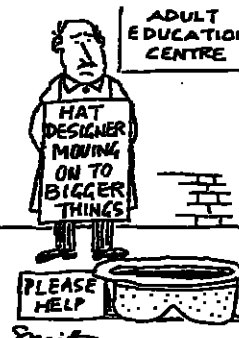
In Devon, where classes are priced at £25 per course to cover the costs of tutors, one estimate is that fees would have to rise by 400 per cent to meet all the costs. Amanda Statham, the county's adult education coordinator, says: "We have a lot of retired people who rely on our courses. They may not be on the breadline, but they will not have the money to pay a lot more for adult education."

One in ten adults is involved in some form of study, while another 16 per cent have been studying within the past three years, according to research for the National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education.

The research shows that women occupy almost eight out of ten places in the courses that do not lead to qualifications.

The point has not escaped the notice of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Heather Mayall, the general secretary, says: "It seems to us that the inevitable outcome of the proposals will be the blocking of opportunities for older learners, especially women in rural areas living on a limited income."

JOHN O'LEARY



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The arrival of the abortion pill has prompted calls for the NHS to review its slow referral system. Alice Thomson reports

Speeding up the right to choose

As soon as the home pregnancy test went pink, Delyth Morgan, aged 24, knew that she wanted an abortion. She had split up with her boyfriend, had just moved to London and had finally found a job. Physically and psychologically she did not feel capable of bearing a child alone. What she did not realise was that it would take her ten weeks of struggling with NHS bureaucracy before having an operation.

"I was only four weeks pregnant when I saw my GP, but he bluntly told me that he didn't approve of me having an abortion," Ms Morgan says. "I went to a Brook Advisory Centre [a charitable organisation] and was told I would have to wait at least five weeks before I could see an NHS consultant."

At first she accepted the wait. "I started my new job but I soon became nauseous and exhausted. I began to panic and not a moment went by without me thinking about the baby. No one thinks of an unwanted pregnancy as an emergency, but it is the biggest emergency of your life," she says. After three weeks Ms Morgan asked her former boyfriend for the £200 she needed for a private operation. "It was humiliating, but within 24 hours I had been given an abortion," she says.

In a letter to *The Times* two weeks ago Dame Josephine Barnes, a pioneer of family planning services, Baroness Warlock, and the MPs Harriet Harman and Emma Nicholson called for a review of the NHS abortion referral system in the light of the advent of the RU486 abortion pill in Britain. The pill will be available both privately and on the NHS, but will be limited to those patients whose pregnancies have not gone beyond nine weeks. Many believe that the NHS will now have to shake up its procedures if RU486 is to become a serious option within the health service.

Only 41 per cent of abortions in England and Wales are carried out by the NHS, and of these only one fifth are carried out within the first nine weeks, compared with nearly half in the private sector. The Birth Control Trust, a charitable trust that commissions research on contraception, has claimed that thousands of women suffer anxiety and distress, and risk greater complications, because of long delays in the NHS system. "Those who have abortions are usually under 30, and are forced to take the step through unsupportable circumstances," says David Paintin, the chairman of the trust

and a former senior gynaecologist at St Mary's medical school in London. "The existing low provision is appalling compared to the prompt and unquestioning provision of other types of acute care in the NHS, even when the illness is a consequence of smoking or alcohol."

The main problem with the NHS system, according to Mr Paintin, is that some members of the medical profession will not accept that abortion is part of health care. "Some GPs refuse to refer patients who want an abortion, and gynaecologists see it as a rather unsavoury though necessary chore, so the waiting lists inevitably build up," he says.

Mr Paintin says that in some areas the NHS service is so slow that many doctors will try to persuade women to go to agencies such as the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS), which provides abortions at cost price, starting at £200.

Jean Chaplin, a consultant gynaecologist for Northwest Thames health authority, believes that better funding would do much to alleviate the problem. "We are so pressurised that you are often faced with the decision to give someone treatment for cancer or to perform an abortion. It is all very well for the government to say: 'We are liberal, we are going to have abortions', but it has to give us the finances. Most doctors are quite prepared to perform a termination, but if they object on moral grounds there should be enough provisions so they can opt out."

Some doctors will not refer patients for ethical reasons. Dr John Scottson, who practises in the NHS in Timperley, Cheshire, will not aid any of his patients to get a termination. "When I see a woman who wants an abortion, I tell her that we both have a duty to her child, and that if co-operated with her I would be destroying a life," he says. "The patient is free to try elsewhere, but I will have nothing else to do with her."

The Pro-Choice Alliance, which campaigns for women who want abortions, wrote to 130 health authorities asking about their referral procedures, and found great discrepancies. For example, in 1988 Preston health authority provided 9 per cent of all abortions for local women, compared with 75 per cent in Tower Hamlets, east London. Stephen Ashcroft, the NHS general manager for acute services in Preston, says: "This reflects the view of our consultants and their interpretation of the 1967 Abortion Act. We can't force them to do abortions,



A woman protesting against David Alton's bill aiming to lower the abortion time limit three years ago, now the debate centres on terminations before nine weeks

and there are good alternative clinics." A spokesman for the NHS said that it is up to the individual health authority to decide what priority abortion takes. He added that many women prefer the anonymity of the private sector.

Newcastle, Edinburgh and Aberdeen health authorities all have new schemes under which GPs can arrange appointments with local gynaecologists through a central bureau within a few days. Professor David Beard, a senior gynaecologist for Edinburgh health authority, does not believe that many women prefer to go privately. As a result of centralising the system, 90 per cent of women in the area now have their abortions on the NHS. "It works very well. Each consultant offers to put aside time each week to carry out terminations," he says. "Within the first six months we had cut the waiting time to less than two weeks."

"I don't agree with abortion clinics, they are too like factories. I think the NHS should provide a more adequate service, because it is only in hospital that you can get the proper back-up system. The biggest contribution RU486 can make is to make the NHS more responsible in this area."

In America some women may soon find themselves fighting not for the provision of earlier abortion, but for the right to any abortion at all. Their automatic rights under the supreme court decision in the case of *Roe v Wade* in 1973, cannot be guaranteed for much longer.

Across the United States, from Salt Lake City to New Orleans, campaigners are preparing for the day when individual states will once again be allowed to set their own abortion rules. In future an Iowa might be even freer to have an abortion than she is now. A woman from Louisiana, however, might have to prove that she has suffered a rape, that she was not pregnant when the rape took place, and that two doctors, consulted within a maximum of five days, will testify to these facts on her behalf.

Eighteen years ago, the supreme court's decision in *Roe v Wade* was hailed as a milestone in women's rights. But it has never become a fixed point of law. The justices voted seven to two that a woman's right to abortion was grounded in her

constitutional right to privacy. But since the constitution contains not only no mention of abortion but no mention of privacy either, the judgment has always been a legitimate target of legal debate.

The balance of opinion has gradually tipped against *Roe*. Following the retirement of two liberal judges in the past year, and the likely confirmation of the strongly Catholic and conservative Clarence Thomas in the autumn, the judgment is likely to fall.

Anti-abortion groups throughout the country are competing for the glory of submitting to the court the law that will supersede the *Roe v Wade* judgment. If *Roe* were to fall in consideration of a law from Louisiana, "that would be a bright shining star for the state," the Republican candidate for governor told an election meeting in Baton Rouge earlier this month. Along with other candidates, Congressman Clyde Holloway, a small farmer and former Pan Am salesman, was asked about abortion by the preachers of the "Fellowship of Excitement" congregation. He said that he favoured "no

exceptions" to its illegality unless the woman's life were directly threatened. He was cheered.

So, too, was the unofficial Republican and former Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke, who from his state senate seat supported last year's Louisiana bill. That measure, which would also have allowed no exceptions, not even for victims of rape and incest, narrowly failed. This year he supported a bill which did allow abortion after rape and incest under tightly controlled conditions. It passed triumphantly.

That is the bill which Congressman Holloway hopes will be the "bright shining star" for Louisiana. That is the bill which abortion rights campaigners such as Terri Bartlett hope will be a rallying point for millions of women who have never voted collectively on a single issue before. "If a bill like that is going to be held constitutional it is up to the women of Louisiana to say they don't want it," she says. "This is a whole new kind of fight. If we can't rely on judges we will have to rely on votes."

It will be a tough battle. Even if women were ever inclined to vote on a single issue, Louisiana is not the place where one would look first for them to do so. Although it is one of only 12 states whose local constitutions contain some privacy protection, its French and Spanish authoritarian traditions are strong.

The state has a high proportion of the poor rural women whose ability to travel is least and whose options for abortion would be most reduced if it were outlawed in their own district. But it has only one woman in its senate and three in its lower house, four out of 144 legislators, almost the lowest percentage anywhere in the United States.

Ms Bartlett knows it will not be an easy fight. The most impressive challenger in this year's race for governor is a woman, the public services commissioner Kathleen Blanco. But she is a Catholic mother of six. She supports the Louisiana bill, which is set to begin its journey to the supreme court in an appeal hearing on August 13.

PETER STOTHARD

"Say what you think, not what someone has told you"



Nick Rowan, producer of Channel 4's new series 'Crosstalk', explains how to provoke lively debate amongst a young studio audience.

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

That's entertainment, Major Michael-style

The man whose fireworks thrilled the G7 guests at Buckingham Palace last week (right) now plans to dazzle Edinburgh



STILL basking in the success of the spectacular laser and fireworks show staged at Buckingham Palace last week, the event's producer, Major Michael Parker, is grateful for the royal patronage that ensures a future for vast outdoor reveals.

"The G7 show worked beautifully," he says. "President Bush said it was a night he would never forget, and I think that all of the Queen's guests felt that the evening was quite incredible." The relationship between himself and the royal family is mutually enhancing, where would our national celebrations be without the pomp? "And where would I be? Out of a job," he says.

The Queen's approval for a futuristic laser show to play on the walls of Buckingham Palace as an entertainment for her guests at the G7 banquet shows that she is as willing as previous monarchs to allow innovation, a crucial factor in the survival and development of great spectacle. George II, for example, was the trend-setter of his day when he spent £2 million on his 1749 state-of-the-art fireworks set to Handel's music.

The public and the royal family have come to rely on Major Parker to give them shows which are never dull. On the eve of the wedding of

the Prince and Princess of Wales, he reproduced the 1749 royal fireworks ("though I assure you it cost a great deal less than £2 million"), and for the Queen Mother's ninetieth birthday he staged a massive display of affection outside Clarence House. "I am already planning her hundredth birthday parade," he says.

In the meantime Major Parker, aged 49, the itinerant producer of shows such as the Royal Tournament, the Berlin Tattoo, and Royal Equestrian Day in Oman, has added another production to his crammed diary, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The Edinburgh tattoo, which begins this year on August 2, is an annual sell-out with an audience of 200,000, and outstrips any other box office at the Edinburgh International Festival, which runs for roughly the same period. Around the world 50 million people see it on television, and Scotland's tourist industry reaps the benefit.

Major Parker's appointment to the tattoo offers the previously unheard-of scenario of an Englishman planning the future of Scotland's most cherished entertainment export. Aware that some members of the Scottish establishment were a little ruffled to find a southerner in charge, he is attempting to



Taking on the tattoo: Major Michael Parker in Edinburgh

mollify them by declaring that he believes the tattoo needs to be even more Scottish.

But a larger controversy looms. The tattoo's future may be rosy, but its setting on the castle esplanade, with the castle serving as a spectacular backdrop, is currently under threat. Plans are afoot to build a £28 million amphitheatre in Princes Street Gardens, beneath Castle Rock, and stage the three-week tattoo as the focal point of a year-round programme of entertainments. Mooted two years ago as part of a tourism review commissioned by the former Scottish Development

Agency, the very idea provoked heated discussion among the firm traditionalists - those who are sometimes described in Scotland as "aye beens", for their strict adherence to what has always, or aye, been.

The amphitheatre plan is now back with its movers, the newly formed Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise Ltd (LEEL). Having secured the most tentative and qualified approval from the tattoo itself, LEEL is conducting a feasibility study into financing and commercial viability.

Major Parker is not willing to take sides in this battle yet.

He says there would be artistic advantages in a purpose-built arena - better facilities, more entrances - but concedes that the vital factor which puts the Edinburgh Tattoo in a class of its own is the setting - the undeniably thrilling moment when massed pipes and drums pour out of the castle across the drawbridge, and the emotional stirring of the lone piper's lament played on the ramparts.

MAJOR Parker's debut in the showbusiness side of military events came when he was a 22-year-old subaltern in the Queen's Own Hussars stationed in Berlin.

He was asked at short notice to take over the production of a tattoo with 1,000 performers, being staged in Hitler's 1936 Olympic stadium. He is rather vague about why he was chosen for the task, saying only that he had "run a couple of dances, and I was so young and junior in rank that I had nothing to lose if it was a disaster."

The tattoo was not a disaster and in 1971 Major Parker left the army, and became the first and only producer of the Royal Tournament currently on at Earl's Court in London. "It was going down rapidly. There was no producer, just a list pinned to the wall each day giving the running order of the performers. The lighting system was a switch for on or off."

He does his thr-king "in the bath listening to *The Archers*", admits to doing little else but working - "very foolishly I never bothered to get married, so I really have nothing else to do" - and has taken only one holiday in 18 years.

At this year's tattoo Major Parker is working in tandem with Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie Dow, who retires in

December after 16 years as producer. Major Parker says putting his own stamp on the show in future years will "naturally" mean some changes, but the potent symbols of pipes and drums will never be lost.

"I feel very privileged to be asked to run it," he says. "I hope I will do it justice. Scots should have no fears about me anglicising their show."

He envisages a more coherent theme for the tattoo, rather than an assortment of entertainment. He would like to make more use of Scottish history and link a series of items with a common story. "I have heard it said that Americans come to the tattoo to see Scottish attractions, and are given American marching bands which they can see at home."

"The tattoo is unique but it is not unchangeable. We are there to entertain people. The audience is what really matters."

JOAN SIMPSON

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BRIEFING

Lend an ear

THE Almeida Theatre in Islington has secured an Arts Council loan, and can now announce an autumn programme. In September, the Romanian director Andrei Serban will direct Euripides's tragedy *Hippolytus*, starring Janet Suzman and Ian McDiarmid. Then, from October 31, comes the world premiere of Harold Pinter's play, *Party Time*, with Nicola Pagetti, Barry Foster and Dorothy Tutin. Pinter will direct it in a double-bill with *Mountain Language*, his 1988 play. Since the Almeida lost its funding from the London Boroughs Grants Committee, it has been negotiating with Islington Council and the London Arts Board for a replacement grant.

Pious hope

IF Paramount executives have their way, the next film to spawn a multitude of sequels will be *The Saint*, a big-budget adventure featuring Leslie Charteris's debonair detective, Simon Templar. Robert Evans, a producer returning after ten years in the wilderness following the failure of *Cotton Club*, is mounting the film with Renny Harlin, director of *Die Hard 2*. No cast has yet been announced.

Last chance...

The lavish musical about "The Boy From Nowhere", *Matador*, ends its West End run months sooner than its backers had hoped. The soaring sets are spectacular and the tight flamenco dancing is superb. But the decision to give the hero an American film-star girlfriend, with liberal thoughts and a distaste for bloodshed, wrecks the second half. Queen's Theatre (071-494 5040), until Saturday.

ARTS REVIEWS
Rock, Theatre, Television
PAGE 18

LITERATURE/THEATRE

Same candidate, different contest

A cold-war novel, *The Manchurian Candidate*, made the reputation of Richard Condon (below). He talks to Clive Davis about an updated stage version of his 1959 thriller



one way or another — writers such as Frances Trollope [travel author and mother of novelist Anthony], Dickens, Gore Vidal or James Baldwin. They're not touched by the delirium.

In Condon's case the misgivings about American life have been distilled into a kind of cheerful paranoia. In his fictional world, the US is run by a cartel of the arms industry, Wall Street and the type of up-market gangster portrayed in the "Prizzi" novels. All a touch simplistic, perhaps; but fortunately the exaggerations are processed into outrageously enjoyable satires.

At 76, he retains his appetite for mischief. Although he suffers from a stammer, it fades as he warms to his favourite theme: Republican-bashing. He is not exactly George Bush's greatest admirer. As for the Gulf war, in Condon's eyes that was an excuse for the Pentagon to test its new weaponry. By his chair lies a copy of *Secret Coup*, the new account of the Watergate scandal: surely ideal reading matter for a conspiracy theorist. Condon underlines key passages with a yellow marker pen. A voracious reader, he tends to stick to non-fiction: "for cribbing", he explains with a chuckle.

As a publicist, he rubbed shoulders with the elite of the film world.

Working in the entertainment industry clearly gave him an idea of the kind of author he wanted to become. "A writer may call himself an artist," he once declared, "but he cannot sit down and consciously create art. What is art is not likely to be decided for decades or longer after the work has been produced, so we must not feel badly if we think of literature as entertainment rather than as transcendental enlightenment."

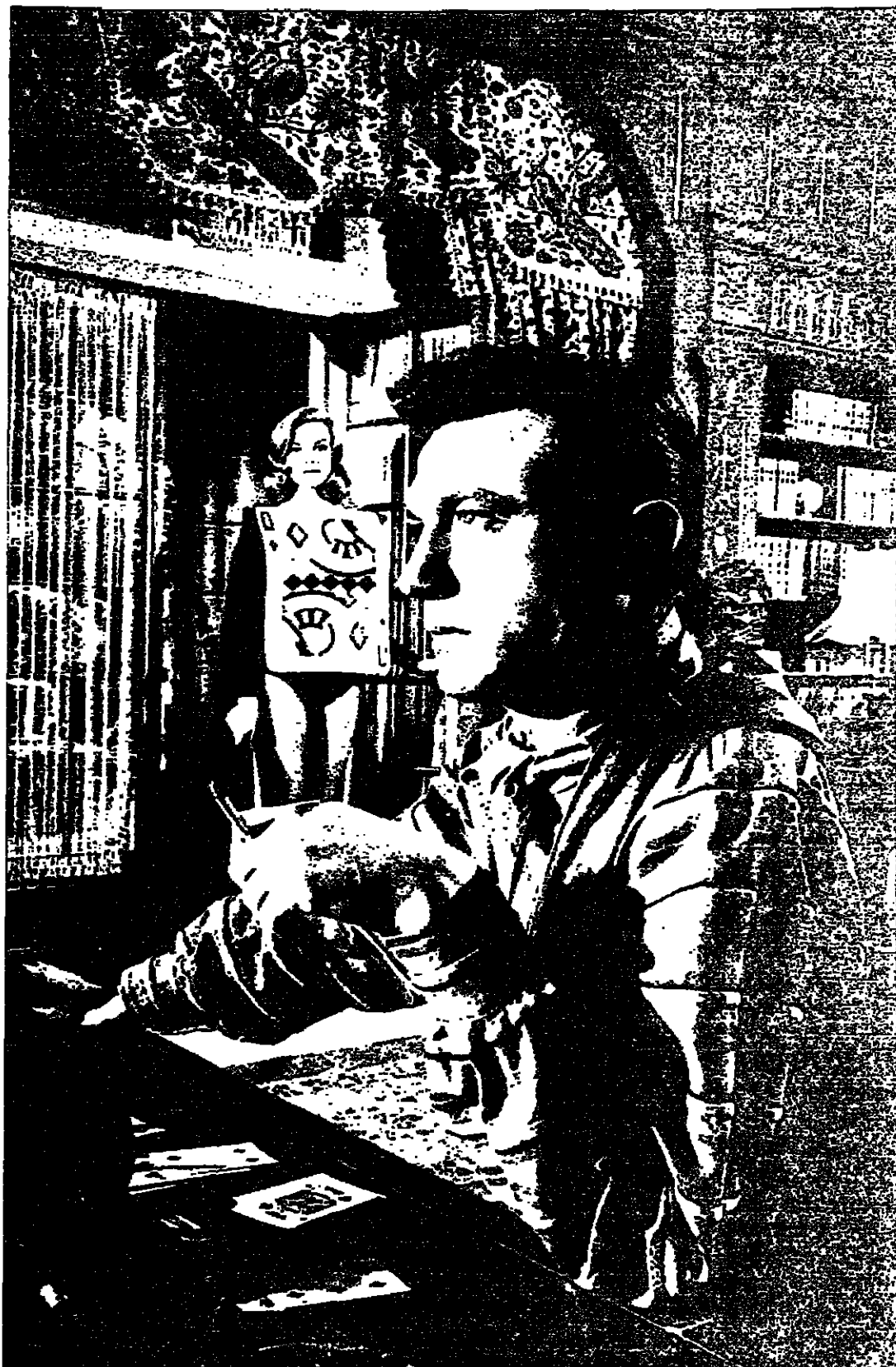
Condon is that rare phenomenon, a writer who actually enjoys writing. Sometimes, he says, he slaps his thighs so much at his own jokes that he feels sore afterwards. His matter-of-fact attitude towards his past output might have made Mrs Trollope's son blush: "If you've only written three novels, you like to think that they are indispensable. When you've got 24 behind you, you realise that they're not all going to last down the ages."

The 24th, entitled *The Final Addition* has just been published by Michael Joseph. Another onslaught on the American Dream, it makes reasonable holiday reading, even if it falls short of his best work. The humour is too broad, the targets — the main character, some may think, bears a curious resemblance to Dan Quayle — too easy.

Never mind. Condon is already making good progress on novel number 25. He explains that he tends to work backwards, devising a climax and then deciding how the characters will reach their destination. As for writer's block, his cure is to break open a deck of cards and play solitaire. He once kept it up for two and a half days. The game even worked its way into *The Manchurian Candidate*, where it is used as a subconscious trigger device by Raymond Shaw's controllers.

Condon keeps an image of his ideal audience all the while, at the back of his mind: "I always think of my reader as someone living in New York in winter time. It's been snowing for eight hours, and he puts on a muffler and walks the eight blocks to the public library. Then he slowly walks back, and he settles down, rubs his hands and says 'Oh boy'. That person has a right not only to be entertained, but to find a friend. There's no friend like a book. Enjoyment is the key, not art."

● *The Manchurian Candidate* has its first performance at the Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith London W6 (081-741 2311) tomorrow.



Laurence Harvey as the pre-programmed assassin in the 1962 film of *The Manchurian Candidate*

THEATRE: NEW YORK

Surrealism, slime, stress and satire

Holly Hill surveys a mixed bag of summer shows on and off Broadway

THE helicopter in *Miss Saigon* and the chandelier in *The Phantom of the Opera* have a merry duet to Irving Berlin's "Anything You Can Do" ("Anywhere you can fly, I can fly higher") in the newest edition of New York's favourite satirical revue. Forbidden Broadway 1991/2 often sets new lyrics to tunes from *Annie Get Your Gun*: a Jonathan Pryce clone sings "I'm an Asian Too" and Sondheimer's *Assassins* is pilloried with "You Can't Get a Hit with a Gun". Including *Ho Chi Cameron* posters, the Phoney Awards, and a few choice rewrites (to *Aspects of Love*'s "Love Changes Everything" an Alex clone sings "I, I Sleep with Everyone"), the

cabaret at Theatre East is among Gerard Alessandrini's most inspired.

For another summer sell-out, designer John Lee Beatty transforms a ballroom into a 1941 nightclub. At *Song of Singapore*, Chinese dragons slither around walls and orange paper lanterns bob in the breeze of ceiling fans while couples dance to such vintage records as "The White Cliffs of Dover". Goats reminiscent of Rank films send dancers back to tables, as a swing band dressed in whites settles behind music stands festooned with gold fans.

Between smoky ballads, bubbly ensembles and a zany hula, the characters search for a cache of jewels hidden in a



Flamboyant fun: Cathy Foy and Francis Kane in *Song of Singapore* at 17 Irving Place, New York

catch of fish. They are stalked by "a vicious psychotic murderer who used to be a divorce lawyer".

With a voice like a silken purr, Donna Murphy plays the Rita Hayworth-type star vocalist. Her rival is slinky Cathy Foy, a dragon lady plumed in the band by a crooked police chief who leads the hula. A plethora of "book" writers and composers (three of whom are in the ebullient band) concocted this surreal show, directed by A.J. Antoon with the sense of flamboyant fun he brought last summer to the New York Shakespeare Festival's *Taming of the Shrew* with Tracy Ullman and Morgan Freeman.

Whether one admires or deplors this summer's festival offering of *Othello* in Central Park depends on whether one buys Christopher Walken's leather-clad, punkish Iago as a foil to Raul Julia's romantically noble Othello. No sale here. Walken's Iago is such a charmless sleaze that Othello looks like a fool not to shrink from him as from a bucket of slime.

Another disappointment is Elaine May's *Mr Gogol* and Mr Preen at Lincoln Center's Newhouse Theater. While the frazzled resourcefulness of Mike Nussbaum's lonely re-

three and the good-mannered rebelliousness of William H. Macy's vacuum-cleaner salesman are impeccable, May's tale of one isolated person taking another captive spins feeble variations on the contrived situation.

At the Manhattan Theatre Club, the title of Terrence McNally's *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* refers to a strategy said to prevent the grinding of teeth during sleeping. Slumbering or awake, the play's characters are failed stress tests. A fortyish sister and brother and their spouses weekend at the gay colony beach-house inherited from a brother dead from Aids. Homophobia, infidelity, disease, grudges, class tensions and economic worries are among the issues bedeviling the quartet.

McNally has so much on his mind that this intermittently funny and poignant new play feels like a transitional work in his canon, the kind of over-laden piece that signals greater but as yet unfocused insights. Directed by John Tillingier, the characters are played like a virtuoso string quartet by four of America's best: Christine Baranski, Anthony Heald, Swoozie Kurtz and Nathan Lane.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Explosive Cologne rediscovery

Paul Griffiths suggests that a German opera from 1965 is overdue for a British premiere

Nowadays our reach is so much less ambitious. A quarter of a century ago the Cologne composer Bernd Alois Zimmermann outlined what he meant by "opera". It was not a Wagnerian fusion but rather a plurality of "architecture, sculpture, painting, music, literature, spoken theatre, ballet, film, microphones, television, tape and sound engineering, electronic music, *musique concrète*, circus, musical..."

This was not just a Utopian dream, but a quite cool description of what he had achieved in *Die Soldaten*. Here is a work which, career-ing up and down a veritable Grand Canyon of theatrical and musical layers, realises the explosion only latent in the 18th century text on which it was based: the play by Jakob Lenz.

Lenz was recognised as an artistic progenitor by Georg Büchner, and indeed there are strong connections between the play *Die Soldaten* and Büchner's *Woyzeck*, not just in the military ambience but in the whole showing of a world where there are no saints and no sinners, only a system whose inevitable output is violence, cynicism and corruption. Correspondingly, in a grand historical symmetry, Zimmermann's opera places itself after Berg's treatment of the Büchner, but it is much more an extension than an imitation, and the musical world is very definitely of the 1950s and 1960s, cognisant of Berio, Nono and Ligeti, perhaps, more than Stockhausen.

What the music also knows about is everything from jazz to Gregorian chant: the stylistic diversity is one way in which Zimmermann continues from Berg: it is also one way in which he pushes at limitations. It is rather as if Bergian Expressionist drama were itself now the norm (as indeed it had become in the operas of Henze and others), which had to be gradually subverted or rudely torn apart by other options.

These options include: tunnelling through time, so that the characters can exist as much in a mid-20th century maelstrom of electronic music and jazz as in the ancient régime of the text; and places where the energy of the music seems to fling any notion of dramatic coherence to the wall. And that energy is at high pressure throughout the piece, even when fragmentation

Looked at the other way, though, there is the opportunity here for something quite spectacular, something which would, perhaps, fit better into the ENO repertory than into Covent Garden's. The Coliseum is big enough for the piece, and performance in English would be a better response to its immediacy.

The European avant-garde produced only two important operas in the quarter century after the second world war: it is shaming that neither of them (the other is Nono's *Intolleranza*) has ever been staged by a British company.

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Ronald Butt

Even voices on the left are lamenting the decline of the family

Professor A.H. Halsey is a sociologist who has long played an influential part in the evolution of what is usually called progressive thinking, especially on poverty, social deprivation and education. He has served on Anglican committees on social topics and his work has nourished Labour ideology. He was special adviser to the late Anthony Crosland, Labour's education secretary, and his hand was on the famous circular of 1965 directing local authorities to switch fast to comprehensive schools.

So when he speaks against received progressive opinion, we should listen. He did so at a seminar organised the other day by the Institute of Economic Affairs, when he declared that children from single-parent families do worse physically, educationally and emotionally than those from traditional families. Probably most people think the same, but this flatly contradicts the view from the left, including that of Mr. Kinnoch, who has poured scorn on what he calls the Tories' obsession with the "traditional family". Mr. Kinnoch asserts that the family is not collapsing but changing, and that the rising rate of divorce and of births outside marriage should be seen as opening up "new opportunities" for women.

The left-wing Institute of Public Policy Research says that one-parent families cause poverty but not emotional or educational disadvantage. In place of attachment to the idea of a family based on married parents, with an earning father and the mother "primarily a home-based carer", it would like acceptance of a society in which fewer people will marry at all and many more will be divorced. It sees no harm in the lack of a father in the family: provided the working mother is backed by sufficient child-care. According to this social ideology, what matters is that individuals should be free to do what they want without paying a price for it.

But we now have evidence from Professor Halsey and his colleague, Norman Dennis of Newcastle University, that children need fathers. This shows that children of parents who do not take a long-term responsibility for them tend to die earlier, have more illnesses, do less well at school, suffer more unemployment, are more prone to deviance and crime and tend to repeat the cycle of unstable parenthood — though, of course, there are many exceptions. So how can the cycle be broken? Of course, defaulting fathers should pay, but cash is no substitute for a lacking father.

The left's redefinition of the "family" to include any kind of ménage, however transient or deviant, assumes the individual's right to state-subsidised hedonism and a kind of moral anarchy. The roots of this family tragedy lie in the new culture that sets the moral terms of reference for teenagers who are shortly to be parents. They are given sex education which often rejoices in being neither "preaching" nor "judgmental" and tells them that if they want sex nothing need restrain them other than trying to avoid pregnancy and Aids. A coarsening television and film culture conveys the same message.

Only by a new cultural revolution can this be remedied, and that requires enlightened public opinion to rebel against the culture which is doing the damage and to force its promoters to desist. Political action itself can do little, but the politicians of the left could at least listen open-mindedly to the evidence of harm. Professor Halsey has produced, instead of convincing at the decline of the family that makes him "shudder for the next generation".

Are the Tories counting their chickens?

Conservative MPs are reportedly returning home for the parliamentary recess this week buoyed up by polls showing a cut in Labour's lead: they think they might win after all. This optimism may be premature.

Recent movements in the polls reflect not only the usual sampling fluctuations but the reactions of a volatile public to the news of the day. The polls will go on bobbing up and down with the eddies of daily politics.

Monthly averages give a truer — and more sobering — picture. The government started the year with 41-45 per cent support and maintained it through the Gulf war. Since then Conservative support has drifted down to a monthly average of 37-38 per cent, while Labour has climbed up to 42-43 per cent. Labour's lead averaged five points in May and June and four points in July (so far). An election tomorrow would return Neil Kinnock to Downing Street with a wafer-thin majority.

But the election is not tomorrow. It will be in October/November (possibly), March (perhaps) or May (probably). Whatever the date, the historical

record makes happier reading for Conservatives. Without exception, every post-war Conservative government has recovered in the final year before polling day (see table). Recovery has occurred whether the economy was on the upswing (1982-83, 1986-87) or downswing (1963-64, 1973-74), whether the Tories were united or divided (as in 1963-64), and whether the prime minister was liked (Eden, Macmillan) or disliked (Heath, Thatcher by 1986-87).

The electorate "swings back" because it treats opinion polls and by-elections as a referendum on the government, whereas at general elections it has to choose between a Conservative or Labour government. The swing-back voters are those who are dissatisfied with the government, but would none the less prefer it to the Opposition.

The government can expect to recover ground. But how much? In 1964 and February 1974 the recovery was too weak and Labour won (just). In the four months before an election Conservative governments have gained, on average, four points over Labour — enough in a November 1991 election to deny

Resurgence of Conservative optimism may be premature, says Ivor Crewe

Government	Change in % vote over					
	4 months before election			10 months before election		
	Con	Lab	Swing	Con	Lab	Swing
1951-55 (Churchill/Eden)	+3	+2	+1	+4	-3	+1
1955-59 (Eden/Macmillan)	+4	+1	+1	+2	+2	0
1959-64 (Macmillan/Douglas-Home)	+1	-5	+3	+3	-4	+3
1964-66 (Heath)	+4	-1	+2	+1	-5	+3
1970-74 (Thatcher)	-2	-2	0	0	-3	+2
1974-79 (Thatcher)	+5	-3	+4	+9	-6	+8
Average	+2.7	-1.4	+2.1	+3.4	-3.3	+3.4

Labour an outright majority, but not enough to forestall a minority Labour government. In the ten months before an election the average Conservative gain over Labour has been seven points — enough to keep the Conservatives in office as a minority government, but not enough for an outright majority.

But averages mask variations.

The swing-back was particularly sharp in the 1983-87 parliament, when the Conservatives gained 16 points over Labour between August 1986 and June 1987. A repeat performance in May 1992 would give John Major an ample majority. But during those ten months a roaring economy, Labour's unilateralism and "loony left" councils gave voters

reasons to reassess both the Conservative government and the Labour opposition. This time economic recovery, when it occurs, will be slow and patchy and the new-model Labour party is disciplined and respectable.

The size of the swing-back will depend on party unity, the economy and the popularity of the party leaders — in that order. Compared with the final year of the 1983-87 Thatcher government the end-of-term report on Mr. Major's government is mixed. In a reversal of tradition, Labour is now seen as the more united of the parties. If public reactions over Europe persist after the Maastricht summit in December, Conservative prospects will be harmed, probably fatally, irrespective of the state of the economy or Mr. Major's personal standing. If harmony cannot be guaranteed, the government would do better to risk a November election.

Judgments about the economy and its management are, surprisingly, no more adverse than in 1983-87. Ten months before the 1987 election pessimists outnumbered optimists about the economy by 19 per cent and about their personal economic

position — a crucial influence on the vote — by 1 per cent. Last month optimists just outnumbered pessimists on both questions. Admittedly, this relative confidence translates as "things have been so awful they can only get better". But the government may escape unscathed: last month's poll reported that 49 per cent blamed "the Thatcher government" for the recession but only 2 per cent blamed "the Major government".

The third element in the swing-back — assessments of the party leaders — favours the Conservatives more than in 1986-87. In August 1986 Mr. Kinnock pipped Mrs. Thatcher by 28 to 27 per cent as the voters' preference for prime minister. Last month Mr. Major was a comfortable 42 to 25 per cent ahead.

The past is a poor guide to the future but better than none at all. At least it reminds us that governments can recover from similar or worse positions than the present and win. Conservative MPs are entitled to some cheer, but not too much.

The author is professor of government at Essex University.

For those who lost millions in the BCCI fiasco, Bernard Levin offers tuppence worth of advice

Bust, and there's not a blamed thing they can do

You didn't really think, did you, that the BCCI business would finish without a comment from me? Well, here are several. The first is very encouraging for those — I am one — who believe strongly that the ancient rituals with which this country is so rich are the very fibre and integument which bind us into a nation.

I was therefore greatly cheered when I read that there had been an announcement in the House of Commons to the effect that the cover-up of ministerial incompetence and indifference was being organised, and that the final touches would be in place before the end of the week: my pleasure, of course, lay in the fact that Mr. MacGregor, Leader of the House, introduced the assurance with those time-honoured words (I believe that they go back to Anglo-Saxon days): "I can assure the House that there is no question of trying to cover up, no question of a sham."

But that does not exhaust the ancient and noble practices with which matters like these are so inextricably entwined. More deeply rooted even than the cover-up Versicles and Responses is the rite of the Doffing of the Responsibility. In this complex manoeuvre, the principal figures sit in a circle holding hands, clockwise in alphabetical order of their surnames, so that Lamont is on the right of Howard, and Leigh-Pemberton on the right of Lamont, and so on through Lilley, MacGregor,

Major and Ridley. The lights are dimmed, and there is a long silence. (In recent years the practice of introducing solemn music at this point has grown up; my own view is that it is an unnecessary and distracting addition to the ancient observance.)

The first in the alphabet — in this case Howard — then speaks the solemn words of the protocol: "It was nothing to do with me." Each of the others in the circle recites the mantra, and there is another long pause, broken by Howard again, saying: "It must have been somebody else, then, right?" This time the others repeat the words in unison, adding: "Phew, that was a close one, eh?" The lights are turned up, and the participants crack a bottle or two and essay a few mild jokes. A week or so later, a filing clerk or telephonist or office cleaner, chosen at random, is blamed, and all goes on as before, though for some mysterious reason people seem to have stopped using the comforting endorsement "safe as the Bank of England".

A year or two ago, I suggested that any prudent saver, whether he has been putting aside a modest regular sum for his retirement or amassing funds with which to launch a takeover bid for Lord Hanson, should firmly eschew banks as a repository for his fortune, and instead keep it in the form of specie, and for good measure in a sock under the mattress. But even I, for all my scepticism, never

thought that there was a bank in London, certified all ship-shape and Bristol fashion by the Bank of England, which was, for many years had been, an open cesspit of thieving, swindling, embezzlement, fraud, double-dealing and — for all I know — steaming unfranked stamps off envelopes and re-using them. (One of Robin Leigh-Pemberton's more delightful excuses for the carnage was that if he had moved earlier it might have precipitated a run on the Bank of Conspicuously Crooked Iniquity. It does not seem to have occurred to him that, if he had precipitated a run on it, some of the people who had put their money in it might at least have got some of it back.)

Now how about the people who did put their money in it, not least the new folk here, the man who hocked the entire Western Isles, which now, as far as I can see, are owned outright by the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi? What did they think they were doing? Well, they thought they were getting a better rate of interest than the more orthodox banks offered, and so indeed they were, for a time. But it seems that none of them, certainly including the Western Isles man, wondered the very obvious wonder: if this bank is willing to give me more than Barclays, Lloyds, NatWest or Midland, what is the secret of its munificence?

They know the answer now, but why did they not even think that there was a question then? I am sorry to say it, particularly



The parcel passes: Leigh-Pemberton, Lamont...



...Howard Major... hands were never cleaner

because many hard-working small businessmen (a considerable proportion of them Asians) have been mulcted, but they dived into the shark-ridden water because they wanted more than the orthodox fish would provide. One of the sufferers said, in the wake of the catastrophe, something much more significant than he realised: "What they have done is terrible. In future people will only be able to deal with banks that are said to be squeaky clean."



Yet the depositor, small or large, seeking a secure home for his money, may begin to wonder what exactly is the difference between the dodgy banks and the honest ones. For the Big Four — as squeaky clean as carbolic can make them — are shortly about to reveal their half-year figures, and there is likely to be a run, on socks and mattresses at least, as the truth sinks in.

The orthodox banks have, in the first half of the year, "written off" (what unexciting words they are!) two and a half billion pounds in "bad debts" (words almost as mundane), and our awesomely numerate banking correspondent has worked out that that makes a cool £550,000 an hour, day and night for six months on the trot. What price the BCCI now?

Where are the Fuggers now that we really need them? Where is the gold standard so that we can go off it? Where the devil are my socks? For we really do seem to have a situation in which the crooked banks make the crooks immensely rich because they are run by highly skilled thieves, and the honest banks lose half a million quid an hour from one end of the year to the other because they are run by a pack of fumbling incompetents. I hesitate to offer the obvious solution, which is for the honest banks to hire the crooks who run the crooked ones, but if you can think of a better idea go and tell Mr. Leigh-Pemberton.

It was Katharine Whitcomb who observed that the banks apparently did their calculations "with a bent pen and an abacus". It is now also clear that the unorthodox ones did their calculations with a sprat to catch a mackerel, and many a mackerel they caught.

Whence the cover-up, where we began. I can now exclusively reveal the names of the members of the enquiry into the BCCI fiasco: they are Mr. Michael Howard, Mr. Norman Lamont, Mr. Peter Lilley, Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Mr. John MacGregor, Mr. John Major and Mr. Nicholas Ridley.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

On the radio on Saturday, my favourite broadcaster, Anne Robinson, referred to the next and future instalment of the G7 talks as "the G8 talks". I know exactly what she means. G7 is a mystery. Perhaps the most revealing signal in human discourse is a small pause between question and answer. Its meaning is straightforward: the respondent is ill at ease. So try this: ask anyone in Britain, anyone, what the G7 talks were for.

Even John Cole would pause. Yet he does know the stated purpose: it is in his notes. His pause to glance at these, like the pauses of the million or so other Britons who would, on reflection, claim to know the answer, is as significant as the "don't know" of the millions who do not. Millions of people do not know the second law of thermodynamics, either, but the minority who do will answer confidently and without hesitation: because there is an answer. The G7 question, however, creates the brows even of the cognoscenti. It has been a triumph.

The superiority of this shuffling over others is plain. Many discussions are clear as to their subject matter, but less clear as to their aims. Some, having settled both subject matter and aims, are vague as to who is qualified to participate, and why. Others (like Mr. Brooke's Northern Ireland talks) settle the guest list and the agenda but cannot decide on a venue. Agree to leave an air of mystery about every one of these foregoing questions, and there remains a da. . .

the talks may at any event decide upon something and become intelligible as to their outcome, if not their internal process.

And, should a conference succeed in proving obscure as to subject, aims, participants, venue and outcome, it is liable to fall at the last fence, succumbing to obscurity as to its whole existence. That would be no good, for it is a famous mystery we seek.

Well, we've just achieved it. This G7 thing comes through every test with flying colours. What was it about? Pause. Er... the world economic order, or something. What is "the world economic order"? Er... What were its aims, then? Pause. Um... to improve the world economic order — no, er, settle it... Um, or help stimulate growth, or something, er...

Well then, who are the "G7"? How was the guest list compiled? Pause. Aren't they the world's seven richest nations? Well, the world's seven richest nations, I mean, as opposed to six, or nine, or 23? No, I don't mean quite that, what with Canada being included, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, Spain, etc, being left out... Er, perhaps it's the richest per capita... Um, no, Sweden, Qatar and Nauru aren't G7. Perhaps it's the sum total of their earnings? Hm, no, China and India don't seem to be there. No, sorry, pass. Let's just say there are "historic" reasons for membership, but the Phoenicians couldn't make it this year. But the Russians could. But they weren't there, of course, officially...

How about the venue? This was clear. It was at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre at Westminster. Pause. Well, that's where the television interviews seemed to happen — no, hold on, wasn't it at Lancaster House, er... Well why did everything seem to be happening at the QE2? Maybe it was split between the two? Or didn't something happen at Buckingham Palace? Ask me another.

Very well. Results. Ah, yes — it was a success. Pause. A great success. Mr. Major said so. They agreed. They agreed to... er... was it to raise interest rates, or to lower them? Or wasn't it to talk about farm prices, or not to talk about them? And I think Mr. Gorbachev wanted some money but he didn't get any but his attendance was an unqualified success... hold on, he didn't attend, you say? He was "in attendance" but not attending. Ah.

Lastly, we come to prominence. Were the talks famous? No pause. Yes indeed. For an entire week Mount Pinatubo seemed down to belch unseen and Glynys Kinnock has all but wasted her sweetness on the Sudan's desert air.

When the G7 talks are all across *The Times* front page, while the Duke of Edinburgh's attendance on Saturday as president of the Guinea Pig Club at their 30th anniversary dinner at the Felbridge hotel, East Grinstead, is confined to royal engagements column on page 14, then, truly, the real news has been buried. Appearance has overwhelmed reality.

Northern lights

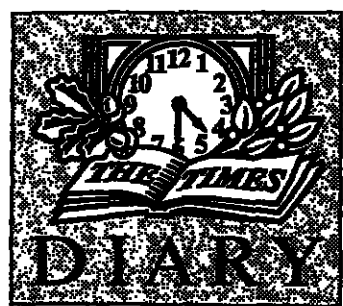
Fresh from chairing the G7 summit, John Major is pressing ahead with plans for his next starring role on the diplomatic stage. The prime minister has announced that Edinburgh rather than London will host the European Community summit in December 1992, when Britain is president of the council of ministers.

Major, apparently confident that he will still be prime minister, is planning to give the summit a royal atmosphere. Later this week the Queen is expected to announce during a visit to Edinburgh that Holyroodhouse, one of her official Scottish residences, will be the venue. The Queen spends ten days there each summer. Designed by Sir William Bruce and set in acres of landscaped grounds on the outskirts of the city, the palace will provide a grand and secure setting for the meeting of the 12 heads of government.

The palace's role in British history also makes it an ideal location for a summit. In 1503 Henry VIII's daughter, Margaret Tudor, married James, King of Scotland, in Holyrood's chapel. The event was immortalised in *The Thirl and the Rose*, the poem by William Dunbar. Some 100 years later their grandson James VI became King of Scotland, England and Ireland, but the political union did not achieve the intended peace.

In 1544 the palace was set ablaze by an army of Henry VIII, sent to Scotland to capture Edinburgh. The fire lasted three days. In 1688, when William of Orange was on his way to become King of Scotland, mobs descended on the palace chapel and destroyed everything Roman Catholic they found inside.

Major must be hoping that the summit, which will generate lu-



crative business for the city's economy, will provide a significant but less dramatic footnote in the palace's history.

Two's company, three's a crowd. Peter Mandelson is moving out of the house he shares with Julie Hall, Neil Kinnock's press secretary, and Colin Byrne, Labour's chief press officer, who are getting married. Mandelson's move: a house in Islington, home of many of Labour's most left-wing policies, will put him in a dilemma. His local Labour councillor is refusing to pay the poll tax, in defiance of party policy. Will Mandelson be able to vote Labour?

Sweden expects No man is a hero to his own family, it seems, nor to his country. It has taken a Swede to create a shrine to Nelson at Trafalgar House in Wiltshire, which was bought by the admiral's heirs in 1816 from funds voted by a grateful nation on his death.

Emma, Lady Hamilton, and some of Nelson's correspondence. "This is the only remaining building with a direct connection with England's greatest hero," says Bengtsson's office. "Both his birthplace, Burnham Thorpe, and Merton House, where he lived with Lady Hamilton, have been destroyed." But why should a Swede have fallen for the great sea captain? "It is odd, I know," says the spokesman. "But it often takes a foreigner to appreciate an English hero."

Stamp of success

The words of foreign correspondents for *The Times* pop up in surprising places. But never before have they appeared on a postage stamp. A special limited edition \$8 Jamaican stamp is issued today, headed by the moving words of W. H. Russell, famous for his dispatches from the Crimean war. Russell pays tribute to Mary Seacole, born in the West Indies in 1805, who served with Florence Nightingale. "I have witnessed her devotion and her courage, and I trust England will not forget one who



nursed her sick, who soothed and comforted them, and who performed the last offices for some of her illustrious dead." The stamp, which was launched to commemorate the International Council of Nurses meeting in Jamaica, shows Seacole tending a wounded soldier at the British military hospital at Scutari in 1854. Horses were stabled next

door to the wounded, and prostitutes had their quarters below. Typhus and typhoid were rampant. Seacole was buried in Kensal Rise Catholic cemetery, London, in 1881. A spokesman for the London-based Mary Seacole Memorial Association, a community group working with young people, says: "I am so glad she has been put on the international map. She deserves it."

Fishy business

At least one group caught up in the BCCI debacle is thriving after the collapse of the bank. When its doors closed no one made any provision for the Koi car, worth between £800 and £1,000 each, that live in an ornamental pond at the bank's Cannon Street branch. However, just as the fish were about to die from starvation and the breakdown of the oxygen pump that aerated their pond, the Touche Ross receivers instituted an emergency rescue package.

The pump was repaired and a security guard was given the job of feeding the fish. "They are the bank's only growing asset" said one involved in the operation.

Not content with cutting the entire works of the Bard down to a 90-minute gable, the Reduced Shakespeare Company is now turning its high-octane methods to history. To coincide with next year's anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage, its irreverent members are presenting 500 years of American history in one man's performance. "No historical figure will be safe, from George Washington to Dan Quayle," says Adam Long, a co-writer. "Columbus is particularly vilified for the mass murder that he was." And what of the debate raging in America about whether Columbus "discovered" the New World or merely "encountered" it? "We prefer to say he crashed," Long says.



QUESTIONS FOR THE BANK

The ultimate responsibility for regulating the soundness of banks licensed to operate branches in Britain lies not with the Treasury, nor with the Department of Trade, nor with the Prime Minister, nor the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi. It lies with the Bank of England, as an institution, and the Governor, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, as its head. As the evidence of the BCCI's malfeasances mounts, day by day, so, day by day, the position of the Bank is becoming more questionable.

Admittedly, the Bank's task is a difficult one. Banking supervision is impossible to get precisely right. If a bank is shut down too early, its depositors may lose money which they could have recouped had new management had been able to restore profitability. If, on the other hand, regulators wait too long, more depositors are sucked in, more money lost, and more ultimate damage done to confidence in the system. Like social workers considering whether to take "at risk" children from their parents, the regulator can be damned if it acts, and damned if it does not. Both charges were this weekend being levied at the Bank; at once accused of shutting down the bank when the Sheikh stood ready to inject more money into it, and for ignoring a host of signs warning of its unsoundness over the years.

However, what sympathy the Bank might otherwise enjoy has been dissipated by its unwillingness properly to defend its conduct. While BCCI was up and running, secrecy was inevitable. Now it is shut, openness is imperative. The Bank blundered last week by its apparent unwillingness to countenance a proper enquiry into the affair. There was nothing heroic about Norman Lamont's decision to go ahead with an enquiry. Ministers mind not to whom the mud sticks over this affair so long as it is not on them. But the Bank should have embraced the suggestion of an enquiry readily and with enthusiasm. As things stand, the suspicion is inevitable that it has much to hide.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton has an opportunity to recover lost ground when he appears before the Commons' all-party Treasury Committee tomorrow. He must not flunk it by citing the Banking Act secrecy requirements or by refusing to "prejudge" the outcome of the enquiry. And he must appear

as a leader, on top of his brief, not as an amiable country squire stumbled among thieves.

He has much to explain. Any large bank failure that destroys billions of pounds of depositors' savings is unnecessary in a properly-regulated financial system. In the modern world it is no more acceptable for regulators to cite fraud as the explanation of a large bank failure than for nuclear inspectors to ascribe a radioactive escape to human error or for aviation investigators to say that a crash was caused by an act of God. Bank regulators in most advanced economies have prided themselves on developing fail-safe systems of auditing and supervision to identify danger signs far enough in advance to protect depositors. Countries which have failed to do this for constitutional, political or bureaucratic reasons — America being the most spectacular example — have paid an extremely high price in financial instability, and government bailouts and guarantees.

In the BCCI case, the Bank of England's competence is the fundamental issue. Thus the aim of the Chancellor's enquiry must be not simply to untangle the web of scandal and find out exactly who stole the billions and how. Most of the perpetrators, along with their booty, are now probably far beyond the reach of English law. The enquiry must identify the individuals and mechanisms within the Bank of England that allowed a fraud on this scale to run rampant. The full savagery of hindsight is not a fair test of their blameworthiness. But convincing evidence of their honest and intelligent endeavour to discharge their duties must be produced before they are acquitted.

What is essential is that the authority of the Bank be restored. The Bank has, in recent years, been more determined than ever to assert its independence. It has sought to use developments in the European monetary field to forward its claim in this regard. Desirable or not, no one would dream of increasing the powers and responsibilities of an organisation that fails to demonstrate its fundamental competence. If present management is shown to have failed, then a change of management will be inevitable.

AMITY IN ANKARA

President Bush, making the first presidential visit to Ankara since Eisenhower in 1959, told the Turks this weekend exactly what they wanted to hear. The Western world appreciated President Ozal's support during the Gulf war. The international coalition against Saddam Hussein could not have held together without Turkey's pivotal role in cutting the oil pipelines and allowing American fighters to operate from Incirlik air base. Turkey had suffered enormous economic damage in enforcing United Nations sanctions and in giving temporary refuge to 500,000 Iraqi Kurds.

It was a generous tribute, and overdue. The Turks have felt bitter at what they regarded as Western ingratitude. Europe and America seemed to take for granted President Ozal's political gamble in committing his country to the allied cause. They did little to compensate Ankara for the loss of its profitable markets in Iraq. Nato was slow to respond to requests for help. For accommodating almost half a million Kurdish refugees on their borders, the Turks received only brickbats: accusations of disorganisation and corruption, complaints that the Kurds were not allowed to move down from the mountains, television pictures of Turkish soldiers beating Kurdish demonstrators.

Coming on top of the European Community's rejection of Turkey as a future member, the grudging Western response convinced many Turks, especially the Islamic fundamentalists, that Turkey's western orientation was misconceived. The West, they said, would never accept them as partners. The sense of rejection has threatened to undermine Turkey's advances, painfully achieved, towards democracy and human rights.

ALL DRESSED UP

As predictable as the seasons, though several months ahead of them, the *haute couture* catwalk shows come round again and again. While Europe sweaters this week, models in Paris will be wearing furs (though perhaps fakes are more fashionable this year) and tweeds (probably woven in scarlet and pink) at the launch of the winter collections. Yet even Yves Saint Laurent wonders whether *haute couture* can survive the decade. Do these fantastically expensive spectacles serve any purpose?

Only a tiny sprinkling of women can pay for *haute couture*, and not many of them would feel comfortable sailing into a party dressed in no more than a gold lurex codpiece and a diamanté bustier. Most catwalk fashions are not just unaffordable but unwearable.

Nor are they much of a guide to fashion. Gone are the days when women were slaves to hemlines. Designers no longer dictate a single "look". A quick glance at the autumn collections in the latest *Vogue* shows some designers favouring pink, gold or tartan, others black and white; some dress their models in severe black leather, others in flilly, young styles. There are women made up like Sixties mannequins, all eyeliner and false eyelashes; others betraying barely a trace of lipstick or eyeshadow.

The big collections hardly trickle down to the High Street. Now and then, a craze may

catch on for a season: gold lamé, or puffball skirts. But women increasingly chafe at the notion of buying four sets of clothes a year and throwing them away at the end of the season. These days they prefer classics: quietly elegant clothes without the built-in obsolescence of high fashion.

At last the big fashion houses have started tacitly to admit that their top lines are little more than publicity vehicles, and even their ready-to-wear clothes are beyond-the-budget for most women. Top designers are now producing "diffusion" labels, which cost a quarter as much and are four times as wearable as *haute couture*. Once discounted again in the endless sales that fashion shops are now forced to hold, these clothes have become affordable for many fashion-conscious professional women.

The myths are that the big collections are meant to sell the designers' clothes; and that newspapers cover them to give fashion guidance to women. The reality is that profits for the designers come not from the clothes, but from spin-off lines of scent, cosmetics and accessories. The collection merely advertises the brand name. And newspapers? Beautiful women make good pictures, but that is not all. Paris may not change what women wear, but fashion is a great spectator sport. *Haute couture* deserves to live another decade. Diamanté bustiers are more fun than grey suits on grey men.

Safeguarding future of salmon fishing

From the Chairman of the Atlantic Salmon Trust and others

Sir, The 1986 Salmon Act required the government to prepare and submit a report to both Houses of Parliament to include the proper management of salmon fishing from Vorking to Aberdeenshire. This review, of course, included study of the English north-east coast drift-net fishery, and the report was due after three years.

Five years have now elapsed and there is still no sign of it, despite repeated requests. Only last month yet another holding reply to a question in the House of Lords merely stated that a substantial background paper had been completed and that ministers were "considering it and the way forward".

England and Wales are virtually isolated in continuing to allow drift-net fishing for Atlantic salmon with near-invisible nets. Scotland banned their use as early as 1962. Greenland and the Republic of Ireland are the only other nations permitting this indiscriminate, wasteful and damaging practice, which entraps sea birds and mammals as well as fish.

In 1990 the north-east drift-net fishery was the only one in the United Kingdom to increase its catch, taking more than 51,000 fish; it accounted for 60 per cent of the salmon caught in the whole of England and Wales. It is widely acknowledged that over 80 per cent of the salmon taken by this fishery were native brown trout returned to their native Scottish rivers. There has been a serious decline in the Scottish catch, which was only 145,000 fish in 1990, compared with 278,000 in 1989, itself not a good year.

There is widespread international concern over the dramatic decline of salmon catches in the North Atlantic, with a drop of over 60 per cent in the last 20 years. Conservation measures are now urgently required to reduce all forms of indiscriminate interceptory fishing and to restrict the catching of salmon to their native rivers, where the level of fishing by traditional net or rod and line can be locally managed.

Many North Atlantic countries are taking such measures and it is encouraging to see that an inter-

national initiative begun privately in Iceland has obtained the agreement of the Faroese fishermen to take a compensation payment in return for not fishing their deep-sea salmon quotas.

In this country these compensation payments will have to be financed from private sources and these are likely to be the owners and fishermen in those rivers which will be most affected by conservation measures. A major source of such funding would have to come from Scottish owners and those who fish in Scotland; few will see advantage in conservation when it is clear that many of the returning fish will be intercepted in an indiscriminate manner off the north-east coast of England.

The immediate danger is that a failure to raise the UK share in financing the novel and successful Faroese agreement, which will be followed, it is hoped, by a similar agreement in respect of the west Greenland fishery, could cause the whole initiative to collapse.

On behalf of all those concerned about the future of the wild Atlantic salmon we now publicly urge the government to come to a decision on the north-east drift-net fishery. It would be difficult to abolish it immediately, but we most strongly recommend that the government should announce that action will be taken to phase it out. Otherwise the most promising new development in salmon conservation will be stifled at birth.

Yours etc,
DAVID NICKSON (Chairman, The Atlantic Salmon Trust),
T. A. BARNES (Salmon and Trout Association),
NICHOLAS BONSOR (British Field Sports Society),
W. R. BROWN (Scottish Anglers' National Association),
A. DOUGLAS-HOME (Twined Commissioners),
J. A. DOUGLAS-MENZIES (Atlantic Salmon Conservation Trust (Scotland)),
MARNOC (Salmon and Trout Association (Scotland)),
J. R. C. PROUDLOCK (Association of Scottish District Salmon Fishery Boards).

The Atlantic Salmon Trust, Monifieth, Perthshire, July 19.

Collecting fines

From his Honour Judge David Q. Miller

Sir, Your correspondents from the Howard League, Frances Crook and John Mortimer (July 16), touch on the matter of fines in their letter on prison reform, but the difficulties in collecting them need explanation.

A fine is the punishment most frequently used by the courts and although no one enjoys being fined many do in fact pay without too much difficulty; but there are a substantial number who will use every possible tactic and excuse, real or invented, to avoid paying.

A court will normally give a defendant the opportunity to pay by instalments, and before a prison sentence is even considered a defendant who is not paying will have been sent warnings; there will have been hearings at court where the defendant's income and expenses are considered and payment by smaller instalments will often be allowed.

By now many months will have passed and if the defendant is still not paying and the court is satisfied

that he has the means to pay but is deliberately choosing not to, then and only then will there be a suspended prison sentence. The defendant will be told in clear terms what the consequences will be if he does not pay.

Should this opportunity to pay be ignored then the court has no sensible alternative but to impose imprisonment. It is then often discovered that the defendant has come to court with the full amount owing, sometimes hundreds of pounds, which he then proceeds to pay. Some defendants who know that the court has power to have them searched, will ensure that a friend or relation has the money. Such is the reality in collecting fines.

The proportion of defendants who actually serve a sentence is small but unless this sanction is retained there will be no way of enforcing payment of fines and the fine as a method of punishment will be treated with contempt.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID Q. MILLER,
31 Edinburgh Gardens,
Windsor, Berkshire,
July 16.

Heated question

From Mr David Morkill

Sir, It seems Dr Secher (July 9) did not pursue his physics to A level. Had he done so he would appreciate that different thermometers read different values except at the fixed calibration points, that the tennis player in white and the ball boy in dark clothes are likely to have much the same temperatures as their bodies compensate by adjusting their heat-loss systems (usually by sweating) and that since black is also a good emitter of heat radiation the Bedouin in black would be cooler when sitting in the shade than in white even if the reverse is true in the sun. I expect sensible Bedu stay in the shade in the heat of the Arabian day.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID MORKILL,
Lley Canol, Brithdir,
Dolgellau, Gwynedd,
July 9.

Environment agency

From Mr R. H. Burner-Hall

Sir, Whether or not the prime minister is playing at politics in his proposal to set up a unified environment agency for this country, as you contend (leading article, July 9), it is certainly a move to be welcomed.

It would be right in the short term for the National Rivers Authority and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution to have time to shake down and not be distracted while they undertake the immediate tasks that both of them have of giving practical effect to the Water and Environmental Protection acts.

Nevertheless, it must make sense for there to be a single body that is primarily responsible for both devising and implementing environmental policy, irrespective of whether it is pollution of land, water or air, or public health, that is in issue. Further, just as the US Environmental Protection Agency has jurisdiction over the entire USA, so the new UK body should have a remit extending across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Concentrating waste regulation into fewer organisations is overdue — it was a recommendation of the House of Commons environment

Wellington's carriage

From Mr Leslie Jernan

Sir, That 18-ton piece of London transport, the Wellington funeral carriage, is not "enriched" in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, as is suggested by George Hill in his article "Journey through the London underground" (July 13).

I watched it being moved out in March, 1981, when it was loaded, in pieces, onto a large army vehicle (oddly bearing L plates) before being hauled to Stratfield Saye, Hampshire, home of the present Duke of Wellington.

The cathedral needed the space for other purposes. It is not known who owns this curious vehicle, of singular ugliness, which made its only previous journey, carrying Wellington's body, in 1852.

And I am, yours faithfully,
LESLIE JERNAN,
Rushbrooke, Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.

committee in February 1989, and it is indeed provided for in the Environmental Protection Act itself. This should be put in hand now while the local authorities are reorganising all their waste-disposal activities over the next year in any event.

As the stricter controls under the Environmental Protection Act on waste management come into effect over the next couple of years, it is essential that the regulatory authorities' attitudes are consistent and reasonably predictable. This will be far more readily achieved with comparatively few, large waste-regulatory authorities that are better able to attract and retain people with the considerable skills and abilities needed. Your dig at Mr Major's apparent tendency to centralise is unfair — doing at regional level what is better done there than more locally is just the other side of the coin of subsidiarity.

Financial incentives to encourage environmentally sound behaviour

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Councils' choice of BCCI for deposits

From Mr C. R. Lewis

Sir, Certain local authority treasurers and members of Parliament defend the authorities' placing of deposits with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), July 11, 16) because the bank was on the list of authorised institutions published by the Bank of England from time to time. So was the largest institution, with assets in excess of £100 billion, and the smallest, with less than £20 million. The list of authorised institutions does not distinguish between the size of banks or provide any indication as to credit-worthiness.

Local authority treasurers should know full well, but apparently do not, that the Bank of England has never offered guidance as to the credit-worthiness of individual institutions. Of course, all should be credit-worthy but all will not be equally credit-worthy. Any treasurer worth one grain of salt would know to refer to easily accessible credit ratings.

Treasurers compounded their woes by failing to consider what proportion of their liquidity should be placed with any one bank. Again, this is a very basic consideration and any treasurer who has placed all of his funds with any single bank, no matter how large, should consider the wisdom of such action very carefully. It is simply wrong.

Constituents facing higher poll tax bills should ask to see the council minute which approved the treasurer's policy for placing funds. It should have named the banks with which the local authority agreed to place deposits and set out specific limits for the amount of deposit which could be placed with any one bank. Such a minute will be found in all banks and building societies, most major charities and larger corporations.

My guess is that many local authorities never even considered the issues let alone established and

minuted a clear policy. It is time that they stopped being such an easy touch and started to act properly and responsibly with their funds.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. LEWIS (Director),
Consolidated Credits Bank Limited,
Westwood, West Gate, W5,
July 16.

From Mr Grant M. Jones

Sir, In addition to the current controversy, the depositors and other creditors of BCCI will in due course have reason to feel further aggrieved by the Bank of England.

Under current legislation the government operates an "insolvency tax" whereby liquidators are required to place funds with the Bank of England. The government, via the bank, offers a net deposit interest of only 3.5 per cent, while charging a levy, in certain cases, of up to 15 per cent on the first £50,000 received from the assets, 12.5 per cent on the next £50,000 and 9.75 per cent thereafter, which is in addition to the normal banking charges.

The system is bureaucratic and unjust. It increases the overall charge that must be borne by the unfortunate creditors.

The income from these levies exceeds the cost to the government of operating the insolvency service, the balance being a healthy addition to the Chancellor's funds.

For some time insolvency practitioners as a group have sought to have the system reformed. It is hoped that the public scrutiny attaching to this case will highlight the injustice and lead to reform.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. JONES
(Corporate Recovery Partner),
Morrison Stoneham,
(Chartered accountants),
805 Salisbury House,
31 Finsbury Circus, EC2,
July 15.

Army reductions

From Major-General Sir John Acland

Sir, In a number of interviews Mr King, the defence secretary, has indicated that the army is to be reduced by about 20 per cent. It is however clear that the infantry — the primary arm and the one principally in demand for all operations short of full-scale war — is to be cut by nearly double this figure, with the same applying to armoured regiments.

The deduction must therefore be that the reductions in supporting arms and services, in headquarters and indeed in the MoD itself are on a much smaller scale and less proportionately than the overall 20 per cent figure.

On August 15, 1970, when I was commanding a battalion, you published a letter from me in which the

final sentence was:

"The country cannot be getting value for its money when the number of soldiers available to fight decreases while there is no comparable reduction among the staff officers and civil servants who push the paper around the headquarters."

Twenty years ago some of the battalions which had been disbanded — which had been disbanded a year before had to be reformed because commitments could not be met. The same is likely to occur again if the government fails to heed the present warnings but, if it is determined to press ahead, it and the army board might incur rather less odium if they cut "the tail" by at least as much as "the teeth".

Yours faithfully,
J. H. B. ACLAND,
Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon,
July 9.

Quality and price

From Mr Philip Groves

Sir, The President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (report, July 17) expresses concern about proposals that might extend compulsory tendering to professional services and criticises moves to make cheapness rather than quality the criterion for design.

Interestingly, in the same issue is a whole page carrying nothing but a quotation of John David Stanhope: "The bitter taste of poor quality remains long after the sweet taste of low price is forgotten."

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GROVES (architect),
The Dingle, Whisper Wood,
Loudwater,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire,
July 19.

£10 a tick

From Mr Keith Snell

Sir, You report David Blunkett as saying (report, July 16): "The prospect of estate agents being paid £10 just to tick a box on a card is outrageous."

The people who will put the ticks in the boxes are qualified valuers. The £10 is not for putting a tick in a box but for knowing which box to put the tick in. As the work is to go to tender the £10 may not be £10 either. Mr Blunkett should stick to politics.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH SNELL,
Keith Snell and Partners
(Chartered building surveyors),
13-14 Charterhouse Square, EC1.

should certainly have an increasingly significant role, but in most areas direct regulation will remain central. (Your notion that we lead the world in regulation would, incidentally, amaze the Americans, let alone the Dutch and Germans.) The more that taxes raise the cost of compliance, the greater the incentive to breach. Effective enforcement is crucial.

Provided the standards imposed are reasonably attainable, responsible industry has little to fear; indeed it has much to gain from its irresponsible competitors being made to comply or else, if they will not or cannot, to close.

Rightly, government ministers have been asserting the country's long-term interest in its industry being accustomed to high environmental standards, so as to ensure both that it can adapt to any new controls readily and that its goods and services have a competitive edge worldwide. Adopting a unified environment agency should be a further step in that direction.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BURNETT-HALL,
Mitre House,
160 Aldersgate Street, EC1,
July 10.

Winchester Three

From Lord Denning

Sir, Rather more than a year ago, you published my letter about the quashing of the convictions of the "Winchester Three" by the Court of Appeal. The basis of that decision was that statements made on television by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, and myself had made a fair trial impossible.

The Court of Appeal would have ordered a retrial but for the law which did not permit it. So all they could do was to quash the convictions and enter a judgment and verdict of acquittal. This means that the Winchester Three were not guilty. I would like to take this opportunity of withdrawing unequivocally any implication to the contrary in my previous letter.

Yours etc,
DENNING,
The Lawn, Whitechurch, Hampshire.

Worship in Moscow

From Dr D. F. Downing

Sir, There could be few more telling indicators of how life has changed in Moscow of late than that given by your correspondent's report (July 15) of Anglican eucharist at St Andrew's, Moscow.

Ten years ago when I was at the embassy there, services were held in the ambassador's office. The 70 or 80 chairs we crammed in left room only for a makeshift altar and an elderly harmonium, which, on age alone, could well have come from St Andrew's in its heyday.

The hymn books, altar cloths and candles were kept in a cupboard under the embassy staircase. There was often an overflow congregation in the corridor.

For major festivals of the church's calendar, we used the residence's main reception room overlooking the Kremlin and the Moscow river. When the windows were open, the sound of well loved Anglican hymns sung with a special fervour, drifted over the Kremlin walls, much to the incomprehension of the Soviet guards at the embassy gates.

Yours faithfully,
D. F. DOWNING,
13 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire,
July 15.

Shorter working week

From Mr Michael S. Howells

Sir, The Parliamentary Labour Party ("Labour MPs say never on Friday", July 18) may have been inspired by a senior partner I once knew who said that he never worked on Wednesdays because it spoiled two weekends in succession.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HOWELLS,
17 Hamilton Terrace,
Milford Haven, Dyfed,
July 19.

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceeba**
 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
 9.05 **Around the World with Willy Fog** (Cartoon) (r) 9.25 **Why Don't You...?** 7 Activity ideas for children (r) 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays** (r) 10.30 **Muppet Babies**. Animated version of the puppet show (r)
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **Our House**. Children's drama from America 11.55 **The Travel Show**. Traveler John Threlkeld spends some time in Tiberias, Israel (r)
 12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **The Garden Party**. Magazine series from Glasgow's Botanic Gardens. In National Transport Week people who have had organs replaced talk about what it has meant to them. There is also a debate on smoking children, features on food and green matters, and soul singers Hue and Cry make music. Presented by Paul Cole, Debbie Greenwood and Dennis Tugby. Wales: The Royal Welsh 1991 12.55 **Regional News** and Weather
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and Weather 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceeba)
 1.50 **Onscreen at Kitchen**. Geoff Hamilton's guide to how to live and how to cook. A garden look attractive (r). (Ceeba) 2.00 **Starline** and **Wales**. Moira Stuart. Paul Michael Glaser Jr. David Soul are the buddy cops with consciousness and guns, letting both go with a bang occasionally. The bad guys this time are into bootlegging (r)
 3.05 **Head of the Class**. Comedy series about a class of gifted students. Starring Howard Hesseman 3.30 **Now Get Out of That**. Adventure. challenge series with teams from Oxford and Cambridge having to overcome some physical problems during an outdoors weekend. The first team is getting a Land Rover out of a mudhole (r)
 4.00 **Burnley Bear**. Cartoon (r) 4.10 **Rupert** narrated by Ray Brooks (r) 4.15 **The News**. The perfect pet is in danger yet again. (Ceeba) 4.35 **Defenders of the Earth**. Animated adventure series (r)
 5.00 **Newsround 5.10** The Lowdown: Victims. The children's eye view documentary series investigates young people who have suffered at the hands of criminals and the efforts made to help them get over their experiences (r). (Ceeba)
 5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceeba) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek. 5.40 **Ulster**.
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather 6.30 **Regional News** Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours



In the television studio with Madeline: Terry Wogan (7.00pm)

- 7.00 **Wogan**. The 1,000th edition of the chat show is given over entirely to Madeline.
 8.00 **Dear John**. Gentle comedy about a man coming to terms with his divorce, with the help of a strange bunch of a singles club. Shown in tribute to the late Ralph Bates, who leads the laughs (r). (Ceeba)
 8.30 **Birds of a Feather**. Early comedy with the two prison warden sisters and their way out. Tonight with the puns, strings being tight, they take on some work from home (r). (Ceeba)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Marylin Lewis. (Ceeba) Regional news and weather
 9.30 **Panorama: Lethal Force**. John Ware reports on the possibility that the security forces in Northern Ireland are covering up killings to mask a shoot to kill policy.
 10.10 **Law and Order: A Deadly Matter**. Above average cops and lawyers series from America. There's more ethics grinding when a police officer's lawyer wants to make a deal with the district attorney's office. Northern Ireland: A Celebration of Sail. 10.50 **Law and Order: Kiss the Girls and Make Them Die**
 10.55 **Operation Raleigh: The Village**. ... and When Men Move It. Eleven young adult volunteers relocate a school away from a school threatened in southern Chile (r). (Ceeba)
 11.25 **Who Cares Now?** Bed Days. I Want To Cry. Dr Jonathan Miller offers advice on feeling guilt and anger during illness. Northern Ireland 11.35 **Who Cares Now?**
 11.55 **Weather**. Wales: News headlines and weather

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: The Changing Face of Poverty**. Ends at 7.15
 8.00 **News** 8.15 **Westminster**
 8.30 **Hardy's Wesssex** explored by Desmond Hawkins (r)
 9.00 **Catchword**. Paul Cole hosts the word quiz (r)
 9.30 **Flora the Flower Power** (1990). David Niven stars as the cowardly old and cowardly aristocrat who is secretly aiding victims of France's Reign of Terror. A lesser offering from the distinguished team of Michael Powell and Eric Prebost
 11.15 **A Roof Over Your Head**. The problems of the homeless
 11.45 **Open Golf**. Highlights of yesterday's final round
 12.30 **Calyso Cricket** presented by Ian Woolbridge (r) 1.20 **Charlie Chick**
 1.35 **Living on the Land: A Place for a Million Birds**. A film about two men who have devoted their lives to making a stretch of Moscombe Bay attractive to birds (r)
 2.00 **News** and weather followed by **Regional Parliamentary Programmes** 2.35 **Look Stranger**. A profile of a couple who own a castle in Kent. Wales: The Royal Welsh 1991
 3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Thames Valley's Travels** (r)
 3.35 **Made by Man** focuses on someone who arranges barrel organ music with a salt tip pen and a pencil (r) 3.55 **News**, regional news and weather
 4.00 **The European Show Jumping Championships**. Highlights
 6.00 **Film: Hell and High Water** (1954). Tough, simplistic Cold War heroics from cult director Samuel Fuller. Atomic scientist Monte (Victor Franc) vanishes while on route from Paris to Vienna. His disappearance is linked to communist activities in the Arctic circle and the arrival of Adam Jones (Richard Widmark), late of the US Navy at a secret meeting in Tokyo
 7.45 **Cine Memoirs: Don't Just Stand There 1905-1945**.
 ● **CHOICE**: The series built round early home movies from Britain, France and Germany offers a more structured programme than last week in which film is not just shown but put in context. It is useful to be reminded that early cameras were static, so that the movement had to come from the subject. Only when tripod was ditched could the camera become a true observer. Another salient point is that the cost of cameras and film was well beyond most pockets. Home movies may have been a people's art but only richer people could afford it. So we get much footage of wealthy families with big houses and servants and hardly a glimpse of the mass of the population. The other impression is of life going on entirely divorced from world events. You would never guess that the period covered tonight, 1905 to 1945, included two horrendous wars, the great depression and the rise of Hitler. (Ceeba)



Rebel mums: Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Husey (8.30pm)

- 8.30 **Different Drummer: Hercules**.
 ● **CHOICE**: Tonight's portrait of Americans against the grain opens, rather startlingly, with a clip from Carl Dreyer's bleak silent movie about Joan of Arc. "You are no daughter of God", the church tells her, "you are a tool of Satan". In less extreme form similar accusations have been levelled against Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Husey, two driver nuns who broke with the Catholic church over abortion. At least Ferraro and Husey were not burned at the stake. But their struggle with Catholic orthodoxy has been no less fierce. Their manifesto is that women's lives should be considered equal in society and the church. That includes the rights to choose abortion and to be ordained as priests. Ferraro insists she is just as much a Catholic as the Pope and has no intention of joining another religion. Much criticism by the church, Ferraro and Husey give advice and help to the poor of West Virginia and continue to ride out the theological storm. (Ceeba)
 9.00 **Film: The Driver** (1978) starring Ryan O'Neal and Bruce Dern. The quintessential car-chase movie with the accent firmly on action rather than character development with the players given only generic titles such as the driver and the thief. Directed by Walter Hill 10.20 **Newsweek** with Francine Stock
 11.15 **Xs**. Richard Aiken introduces a profile of Gail, once a dancer with the Kirov Ballet and now living and dancing in Scotland. Plus music from Irish singer Christy Moore 11.55 **Weather**
 12.00 **Open University: Stand By Banner**. Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am**
 9.25 **Inspector Gadget**. Cartoon (r) 9.50 **Thames News** and weather
 9.55 **Film: The Best of Walt Disney's True Life Adventures** (1975).
 10.50 **ITN News** 10.55 **Good Morning**. Miss Biles. Disney drama series starring Hayley Mills as American schoolteacher Carrie Bliss
 11.25 **Cx Teles** 11.55 **Regional News** and weather 12.00 **Cartoon** 12.10 **Roosie and Jim** (r)
 12.30 **News** and weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather
 1.20 **Home and Away**. (Oracle) 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Drama serial set in and around a rural Australian health centre
 2.20 **Thames Help**. Community action series presented by Jackie Sprackley 2.50 **The Guinness**. Magazine series investigating environmental issues. With Alistair McDonald and Dilly Barlow
 3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **Families**. Scoop linking the north of England with Australia
 3.55 **Fraggle Rock** 4.10 **Cartoon** 4.15 **T-Bag** and the **Revenger of the T-Sat** (r) 4.40 **Don't Try This One at Home**. Frank Bruno and Eddie Kidd report from the world cinema stunt festival held in Toulouse, France
 5.10 **Stockbusters** presented by Bob Honeiss
 5.40 **News** followed by weather
 5.55 **Thames Help**. Jackie Sprackley looks at the problems faced by refugees who are trying to make a new life for themselves in London
 6.00 **Home and Away** (r). (Oracle)
 6.30 **News** and weather
 7.00 **Pizza Patrol**. Cannon and Ball star as two night security men in a shopping plaza in this six-part situation comedy



Balduin v Balduin: Johnny Briggs, left, Carl Forgiore (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. Mike Baldwin receives a visit from his wife's solicitor. Starring Johnny Briggs and Carl Forgiore. (Oracle)
 8.00 **Everybody's Equal**. Game show in which 200 contestants compete for a cash prize worth up to £2,000
 8.30 **World in Action**. This last in the current series of in-depth investigative reports update the series' status
 9.00 **Soldier, Soldier**. Flying Colours. Watchable drama series about the private and public lives of the soldiers of the King's Fusiliers Infantry Regiment. Colour Sergeant Ian Anderson's (Robert Glenister) big chance for promotion is jeopardised by large-scale theft from the company stores. Last in the series. (Oracle)
 10.00 **News** at Ten. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather
 10.40 **Film: Kluge** (1971). Alan Pacula's stylish and influential psychological thriller about a small town detective (Donald Sutherland) who goes to New York to investigate the disappearance of his friend, research scientist Tom Grunemann (Robert Milla). His only lead is a prostitute named Rose Daniels (Jane Fonda), with whom he falls in love. Then Rose disappears and it appears that she was the killer's intended victim. An intelligent script and an exceptional performance from Fonda for which she won an Oscar make this a film of rare quality. With Charles Cloff and Roy Scheider
 12.45am **Sportsworld Extra**. Carl Crook defends his British and Commonwealth lightweight titles against Brian Roche
 1.45 **Film: The Doughgirls** (1944, b/w). Energetic farce set in a Washington hotel. Arthur Hackett (Jack Carson) and his less-than-intelligent wife Vivian (Jane Wyman) arrive at the Hotel Grayson, to find that they must share their rooms with another couple, Julian Cadman and his wife Edna (John Ridgely and Ann Sheridan). Julian learns from a newscast that she isn't really his wife and she is a prostitute named Rose Daniels (Jane Fonda), with whom he falls in love. Then Rose disappears and it appears that she was the killer's intended victim. An intelligent script and an exceptional performance from Fonda for which she won an Oscar make this a film of rare quality. With Charles Cloff and Roy Scheider
 3.40 **The Twilight Zone: Shadow Play**. Adam Grant awaits execution on Death Row. He finds that no-one believes the haunting truth that haunts him - that everyone around him is a figment of his recurring nightmare and that if he is executed they will cease to exist. Starring Peter Coyote (r)
 4.10 **Film: Blowing Smoke**. Takes a Vacation (1933, b/w). Another in the series of comedies based on the characters from the Chick Young strip cartoon. Blondie (Penny Singleton) schemes to save a friendly resort hotel from bankruptcy. With Arthur Lake as Dagwood and Jonathan Lake as Mr. Dithers. Directed by Frank Strayer
 5.30 **ITN Morning News**. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**
 9.25 **Film: The Crystal Ball** (1943, b/w). A lively comedy starring Paulette Goddard as a Texas lass who heads for New York to find fame and fortune. Initially things do not go too well but with the help of a crooked fortune teller (Gladys George) she meets young lawyer Ray (Mikal Gilmore) and falls in love with him. (Unfortunately) Mikal is engaged to marry a wealthy widow (Virginia Field). Directed by Elliott Nugent
 11.00 **As It Happens: On the Water**. Paddy Haycocks visits the 199 Cowes week (r)
 12.00 **Flowering Passions: Some Like It Hot**. Gardening series presented by Anna Pavord (r) (Teletext)
 12.30 **Business Daily** introduced by Susan Simons
 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining early learning series (r)
 2.00 **Film: Bathing Beauty** (1944). An aquatic musical comedy from MGM starring Red Skelton and Esther Williams. Skelton plays songwriter, Steve Elliott, who marries the beautiful Caroline Brooks (Williams) with plans to settle down. However Elliott's unscrupulous publisher (Basil Rathbone) has other ideas. Directed by George Sidney
 3.55 **Violin Concerto**. Conducted by Pavel Koutsky in which a violinist is attacked by a vacuum cleaner
 4.00 **Get Smart: I'm Only Human**. Scary spy spoof written by Mike Brooks and Buck Henry. For the spy who is planted in a KAC kennel, determined to thwart a dastardly scheme of canine bar washing. Starring Don Adams
 4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whitley hosts the words and number
 5.00 **On the Other Hand: Post Gulf** - The Hero Vocations. A repeat of the discussion programme dealing with black and Asian issues. This edition explains how Saddam Hussein came to be viewed as a hero by millions of Asians from Bombay to Birmingham (r)
 6.00 **The Wander Years**. American sitcom about growing up in the last 600. Kevin attempts to cure Winnie's stage fright (r)
 6.30 **Tour de France**. The 16th stage - from Alsace to Gap, a distance of 211km
 7.00 **Channel Four News**. (Teletext) Weather 7.50 **Comment**
 8.00 **Brookside**. Realistic suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext)
 8.30 **My Two Dads**. Environment class. Lightweight sitcom about two single men who jointly inherit a daughter
 9.00 **Travellers' Tales: Lost Man's River**.
 ● **CHOICE**: Peter Matthiessen is a novelist, naturalist and Ze Buddhist and he makes use of all three during the trip to the Everglades of Florida. The Zen Buddhist leads him to think twice about killing a superb fish, caught during a boat trip. The naturalist is on the lookout for the rich offerings of the region, as he forages snakes and mounts a night-time search for the vanishing American crocodile. The novelist picks up the story of Edgar "Bloody" Watson, farmer, ship-owner, much-loved father and husband and an alleged perpetrator of a series of brutal murders. Extracts from Matthiessen's book about Watson form part of the narrative. It is not just the ghost of Watson that makes the Everglades feel dark and menacing. Matthiessen's journey has much of the nightmare flavour of Joseph Conrad's *The Heart of Darkness*
 10.00 **E.N.G.: All Things Betray Thee**. Gritty Canadian drama series following the lives of the tough news team from Channel 10, a independent television station in downtown Toronto. A Hildebrandt (Sara Botsford) finds her comrade, Janice Robert (Rachel Crawford) dead in her apartment. (Teletext)
 11.00 **Down Under: Body Work**. An extraordinary look at the people who make a living out of dead human bodies - pathologists embalmers and grave-diggers. Despite the potentially gruesome subject matter, this manages to be a warm and amusing film
 11.55 **Down Under: Body Work**. Teenage. A disturbing film counterpointing bitter-sweet romantic songs of the Forties and Fifties with images of teenage suicide victims from the Australia police archives

The Canadian singer in concert: Bryan Adams (12.15am)
 12.15am **Bryan Adams Live in Belgium**. The Canadian singer performing in concert in Belgium in 1989
 1.00 **Tour de France**. A repeat of the programme shown at 6.30. End at 1.30

ANGLIA

- As London except: 2.30pm-2.50 **Discovering Gardens** 5.15-5.40 **Tel the Truth** 6.25-7.00 **Anglia News** 10.40 **Stacey Shaden's** **Anglia** 10.50 **Anglia** 11.00 **Anglia** 11.10 **Anglia** 11.20 **Anglia** 11.30 **Anglia** 11.40 **Anglia** 11.50 **Anglia** 12.00 **Anglia** 12.10 **Anglia** 12.20 **Anglia** 12.30 **Anglia** 12.40 **Anglia** 12.50 **Anglia** 1.00 **Anglia** 1.10 **Anglia** 1.20 **Anglia** 1.30 **Anglia** 1.40 **Anglia** 1.50 **Anglia** 2.00 **Anglia** 2.10 **Anglia** 2.20 **Anglia** 2.30 **Anglia** 2.40 **Anglia** 2.50 **Anglia** 3.00 **Anglia** 3.10 **Anglia** 3.20 **Anglia** 3.30 **Anglia** 3.40 **Anglia** 3.50 **Anglia** 4.00 **Anglia** 4.10 **Anglia** 4.20 **Anglia** 4.30 **Anglia** 4.40 **Anglia** 4.50 **Anglia** 5.00 **Anglia** 5.10 **Anglia** 5.20 **Anglia** 5.30 **Anglia** 5.40 **Anglia** 5.50 **Anglia** 6.00 **Anglia** 6.10 **Anglia** 6.20 **Anglia** 6.30 **Anglia** 6.40 **Anglia** 6.50 **Anglia** 7.00 **Anglia** 7.10 **Anglia** 7.20 **Anglia** 7.30 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Tories launch vote-catching charter today

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister will launch the citizens' charter today as part of the Conservatives' strategy to capture the mood of the decade and win the next general election.

John Major's blueprint aims to provide tougher rights for consumers over a wide range of public services and will underpin his determination to improve standards and rights of redress within the public sector. The charter, to be unveiled in the Commons and at a Westminster press conference, is intended to mark the most significant shift in the relationship between people and the public services since the foundation of the welfare state more than 40 years ago.

It has been completed against a background of Whitehall infighting, resistance from the Treasury and, initially, little enthusiasm from individual departments.

With the latest opinion poll showing Labour's lead over the Tories cut to three points compared with a month ago, Mr Major hopes that the charter will enable the government to seize the initiative on public services. It will open a week in which the prime minister and his close advisers intend to dominate parliament and the media with a series of announcements including the restructuring of the army and its regiments, and further trade union legislation.

The launch will intensify the political battle being fought over providing better public services and strengthening consumer rights.

ening consumer rights which strategists of all parties see as a key plank in their election platforms. Yesterday Mr Major again hinted that there would not be a general election this year by suggesting it was a five-year parliament and the Conservatives had a lot to do. In emphasising that the Tories have work to do, he is attempting to avoid the charge that the government is running out of ideas and hanging on to office, while leaving open the option of going to the country later this year.

Today's White Paper will contain the outlines of the charter and is expected to be followed by detailed proposals from Whitehall departments throughout the summer. A shorter version of the charter is due to be issued to households throughout Britain.

The charter is expected to include an increase in competitive tendering for council services, performance targets for much of the public sector including hospital waiting lists, redress for rail travellers suffering delays, and limits on the time that social security departments take to deal with claims.

A key area will be whether it proposes additional rights in relation to the public utilities. A fierce Whitehall battle has been fought over whether regulatory bodies should have increased powers to take action on behalf of customers who have received poor service.

User-friendly justice, page 5
Counting chickens, page 14

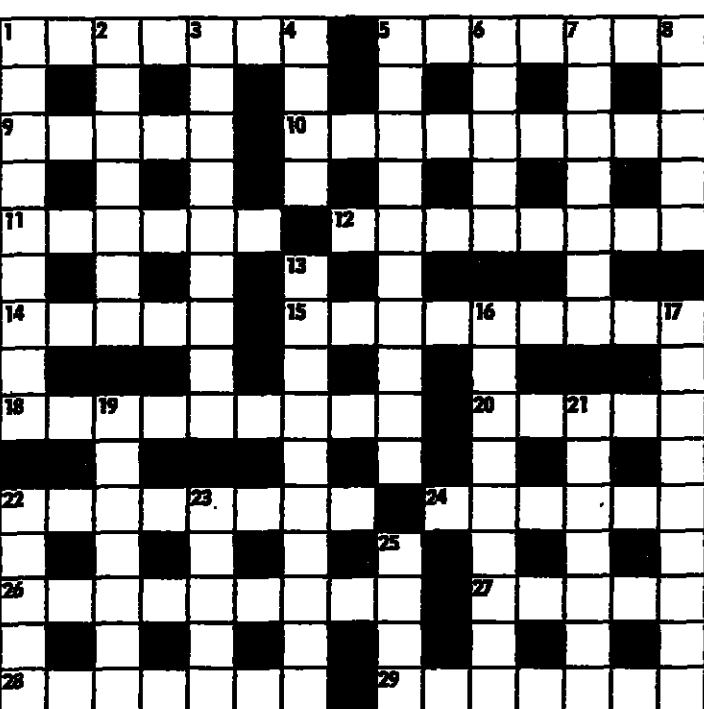
POLL OF POLLS, JANUARY-JULY 1991

Month	No of polls	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	Cons maj over Lab
Jan 1991	9	44.7	41.2	9.2	5.0	+3.5
Feb 1991	9	44.8	40.9	9.4	4.8	+3.9
March 1991	13	40.6	38.5	15.5	5.4	+2.1
April 1991	9	41.2	40.3	13.8	4.7	+0.9
May 1991	10	36.9	42.0	16.9	4.2	-5.1
June 1991	8	37.1	42.4	15.8	4.7	-5.3
(July 1991)	(3)	38.3	42.7	14.3	4.7	-4.3

A WONDER-FUL WEEK

Two tombs, a lighthouse, a roof-top garden, a temple, two statues. All but one invisible now under the waste of centuries. The Seven Wonders of the World, the stuff of romance, legend and myth. Do they matter now? Yes, not least because the search for them, 25 centuries ago, represented the first stirrings of Man's fascination with the world beyond his own backyard, the first whiff of travel and adventure and tourism. Next weekend, *The Times* Saturday Review begins a series on the seven. We have asked a panel of distinguished figures to name the seven wonders of the 20th century and we want readers to do the same. The best list will earn a wonder-ful holiday for two.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,664



- ACROSS**
- Carries out personal property (7).
 - Calm when bill is found in coat (7).
 - Observing the old-fashioned turn in before midnight (5).
 - A singer having riches to distribute, right? (9).
 - A woman given sanctuary in church (6).
 - Coppers accepting notes for just being there (8).
 - The fish plainly wasn't fresh (5).
 - Consumed by anger - must be restrained! (9).
 - Pottery keeping recently-manufactured article in reserve (9).
 - Drink the health of a high-minded individual? (5).
 - Stir a breakfast cereal (9).
- DOWN**
- Making the beds could be a start (6).
 - Beat an essayist like Edward (9).
 - Handy bar (5).
 - Sort of cell where a billiard sharp is made to dwell (Gilbert) (7).
 - Letters are sent - that could be serious (7).
 - Applies for training (9).
 - The craft of the lot without equipment (7).
 - Weed - taking care, get it out (9).
 - Rifle fire (4).
 - Courses favouring light-weights (10).
 - An assumed name one must enter unfortunately (5).
 - A girl about sea feels for a six-footer (7).
 - Strange point Ireland raised (5).
 - Order things - rate is to be changed (10).
 - For the transport of 1 ac? (6,3).
 - A sociable type, though very green (9).
 - Sporting people involved in a row (7).
 - A seaman only gets seafood (7).
 - Friend accompanying leading journalist turned white (5).
 - Picture, for example, a great way to get a rise (5).
 - Having nothing to do, take some unpaid leave (4).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,663 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Concise Crossword, page 17



Manhunt: Police with photographs of the escaped patient questioning motorists after they set up roadblocks around Broadmoor yesterday

Broadmoor security storm

Continued from page 1

Following another lead, a Land Rover, registration number CFM 595V, was stolen from a farm near Andover, Hampshire, on the route to the West Country, around 7.30 just half a mile from a service station where a car stolen after the escape from Broadmoor, was abandoned.

Saunders, who has also used the names Philip Pritchett and Lee Reynolds, was dubbed the "wolf man" after he evaded a police dragnet for three weeks in 1986 while being sought for offences of rape and assault. He lived rough and stole cars, money and even a coach. At Bristol Crown Court in January 1986 he was sentenced to be detained indefinitely at Broadmoor after he admitted two rapes - of a girl aged 11 and another aged 15 - three charges of stealing vehicles, grievous bodily harm, arson and theft.

He also pleaded guilty to two charges relating to another escape bid from Chippenham magistrates court. He escaped from the courtroom by smashing a heavy metal ashtray into a policeman's face. He was recaptured in the town centre.

Police were last night manning roadblocks all around the

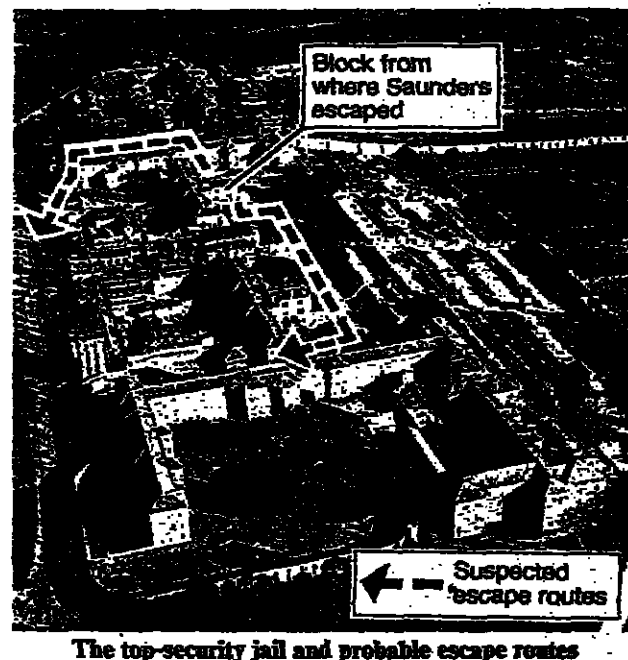
county and a helicopter and dogs were being used in the hunt. Prison officers' leaders immediately blamed the escape on the hospital management's security policies. George Temple, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association at Broadmoor, said the hospital's new liberal regime was to blame. "I was waiting for something like this to happen, and I am just surprised that no-one got hurt and it was not a mass break-out. Nowadays it is nursing first and security second."

Alan Franey, Broadmoor's general manager, defended the hospital's security record. "We have what I consider to be very high security standards but if a patient is

determined to escape, it might just happen."

Saunders shared a locked ward with four other patients in the hospital's old Dorset wing. He was last seen in his bed at 3.10am. He had received visitors recently, and staff confirmed yesterday that visitors were not checked before entering. Staff also confirmed that Saunders had access to workshops where saws and other tools were kept.

Saunders is 5ft 11in tall, with dark hair and a moustache which conceals a hare lip. He has grey-blue eyes and was thought to be wearing a black shell suit. A dark blue anorak was missing from his clothes.



The top-security jail and probable escape routes

Britain 'backs American moves to spark anti-Saddam coup'

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration, with British encouragement, is said to be stepping up efforts to foment an Iraqi military coup against President Saddam Hussein.

Apart from maintaining stringent economic sanctions designed to heighten discontent against the Iraqi leader, US officials are expanding contacts with exiled Iraqi opposition

groups and considering how an Iraqi resistance movement could be trained and funded, according to Iraqi sources quoted by *The Washington Post* yesterday.

It was unclear whether the administration was seriously contemplating the use of these opposition groups or simply exploring options. Nor was it known whether Mr Bush had authorised greater covert activity to remove the Iraqi leader. During the Gulf war and its immediate after-

math, Washington always denied having Saddam's removal as an objective. However, it quietly changed its policy in early May when it declared that there would be no easing of sanctions while Saddam remained in power.

British and American sources cited by the newspaper suggested that London had been unhappy about Washington's non-intervention during the Shia and Kurdish uprisings in March and had favoured aggressive

covert action to remove Saddam. Since then, Saddam has continued to defy international demands, but some administration experts are still said to be wary of a more active American role, pointing to the unreliability of the opposition groups and the dangerous instability that could result from his removal. Over the weekend, President Bush played down the prospect of renewed military intervention in Iraq.

Oil sale authorised, page 9

WEATHER

The northwest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy at times with outbreaks of rain on coasts and hills. After a cloudy start, other western areas will be dry and bright with sunny periods. More central and eastern areas will be mostly dry and bright but later there is the chance of thundery showers in more southern counties. The South-East will be very warm. Outlook: Unsettled.

MONDAY: 1-4 cloudy, 5-6 drizzle, 7-8 dry, 9-10 rain; 11-12 sun, 13-14 rain, 15-16 sun, 17-18 rain.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 sun, 5-6 rain, 7-8 sun, 9-10 rain, 11-12 sun, 13-14 rain, 15-16 sun, 17-18 rain.

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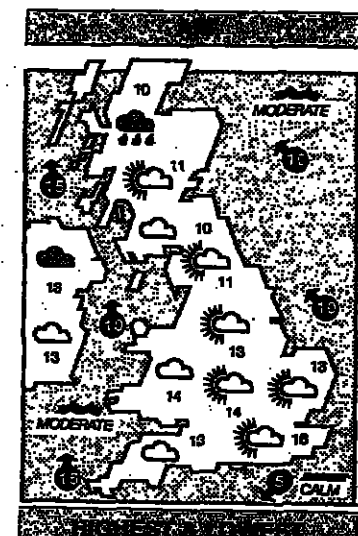
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Friday: Highest day temp: Glasgow, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 12C (54F). Night: Lowest: Glasgow, 12C (54F). Highest: Glasgow, 21C (70F). Rain: 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 31-33, 34-36, 37-39, 40-42, 43-45, 46-48, 49-51, 52-54, 55-57, 58-60, 61-63, 64-66, 67-69, 70-72, 73-75, 76-78, 79-81, 82-84, 85-87, 88-90, 91-93, 94-96, 97-99, 100-102, 103-105, 106-108, 109-111, 112-114, 115-117, 118-120, 121-123, 124-126, 127-129, 130-132, 133-135, 136-138, 139-141, 142-144, 145-147, 148-150, 151-153, 154-156, 157-159, 160-162, 163-165, 166-168, 169-171, 172-174, 175-177, 178-180, 181-183, 184-186, 187-189, 190-192, 193-195, 196-198, 199-201, 202-204, 205-207, 208-210, 211-213, 214-216, 217-219, 220-222, 223-225, 226-228, 229-231, 232-234, 235-237, 238-240, 241-243, 244-246, 247-249, 250-252, 253-255, 256-258, 259-261, 262-264, 265-267, 268-270, 271-273, 274-276, 277-279, 280-282, 283-285, 286-288, 289-291, 292-294, 295-297, 298-300, 301-303, 304-306, 307-309, 310-312, 313-315, 316-318, 319-321, 322-324, 325-327, 328-330, 331-333, 334-336, 337-339, 340-342, 343-345, 346-348, 349-351, 352-354, 355-357, 358-360, 361-363, 364-366, 367-369, 370-372, 373-375, 376-378, 379-381, 382-384, 385-387, 388-390, 391-393, 394-396, 397-399, 400-402, 403-405, 406-408, 409-411, 412-414, 415-417, 418-420, 421-423, 424-426, 427-429, 430-432, 433-435, 436-438, 439-441, 442-444, 445-447, 448-450, 451-453, 454-456, 457-459, 460-462, 463-465, 466-468, 469-471, 472-474, 475-477, 478-480, 481-483, 484-486, 487-489, 490-492, 493-495, 496-498, 499-501, 502-504, 505-507, 508-510, 511-513, 514-516, 517-519, 520-522, 523-525, 526-528, 529-531, 532-534, 535-537, 538-540, 541-543, 544-546, 547-549, 550-552, 553-555, 556-558, 559-561, 562-564, 565-567, 568-570, 571-573, 574-576, 577-579, 580-582, 583-585, 586-588, 589-591, 592-594, 595-597, 598-600, 601-603, 604-606, 607-609, 610-612, 613-615, 616-618, 619-621, 622-624, 625-627, 628-630, 631-633, 634-636, 637-639, 640-642, 643-645, 646-648, 649-651, 652-654, 655-657, 658-660, 661-663, 664-666, 667-669, 670-672, 673-675, 676-678, 679-681, 682-684, 685-687, 688-690, 691-693, 694-696, 697-699, 700-702, 703-705, 706-708, 709-711, 712-714, 715-717, 718-720, 721-723, 724-726, 727-729, 730-732, 733-735, 736-738, 739-741, 742-744, 745-747, 748-750, 751-753, 754-756, 757-759, 760-762, 763-765, 766-768, 769-771, 772-774, 775-777, 778-780, 781-783, 784-786, 787-789, 790-792, 793-795, 796-798, 799-801, 802-804, 805-807, 808-810, 811-813, 814-816, 817-819, 820-822, 823-825, 826-828, 829-831, 832-834, 835-837, 838-840, 841-843, 844-846, 847-849, 850-852, 853-855, 856-858, 859-861, 862-864, 865-867, 868-870, 871-873, 874-876, 877-879, 880-882, 883-885, 886-888, 889-891, 892-894, 895-897, 898-900, 901-903, 904-906, 907-909, 910-912, 913-915, 916-918, 919-921, 922-924, 925-927, 928-930, 931-933, 934-936, 937-939, 940-942, 943-945, 946-948, 949-951, 952-954, 955-957, 958-960, 961-963, 964-966, 967-969, 970-972, 973-975, 976-978, 979-981, 982-984, 985

MONDAY JULY 22 1991

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25
● LAW 24
● UNIVERSITY RESULTS 26-29
● SPORT 35-40

Television South West bid under fire

THE growing controversy over the system of blind auctions for Britain's television franchises gained momentum yesterday when Westcountry Television, one of the groups bidding for the Television South West franchise, condemned the size of TSW's bid to retain its licence.

TSW is reliably said to have bid £16.7 million and has not denied the number. Stephen Redfern, deputy chairman of Westcountry's executive committee, said: "The confirmation that TSW has bid in excess of £16 million, being as it is nearly half their current pro forma Channel 3 revenue, is truly amazing. The future for television in the Southwest is seriously undermined if this bid wins."

Westcountry has bid less than £10 million for the TSW franchise. The other rival bid, from Telewest, is also said to be below £10 million.

Mr Redfern argues that it will be difficult for TSW to support a broadcasting output of sufficient quality if it has to pay so much to retain its licence.

The size of some of the bids, meant to be kept a secret until the October decision date, has been trickling out over the last two weeks.

News that Central Independent Television and Scottish Television, neither of which faces a rival bid, had bid below £1 million for their franchises sent the share prices of the two companies soaring last week and led to worries about the creation of false markets in the shares of some of the television companies.

Hanson and City wait for ICI plans

THE City is waiting with bated breath this week to see if ICI's interim profits announcement and restructuring plans dent the enthusiasm of Lord Hanson and his team, holders of 2.8 per cent of ICI.

The much-forecast Hanson bid, if it comes at all, will not appear until after the profits announcement on Thursday.

ICI is expected to show a sharp fall in pre-tax profits, from £733 million to between £400 million and £450 million, for the six months to end-June. But there is confidence that the interim dividend will be maintained at 21p.

Restructuring proposals, which are also due to be unveiled on Thursday, could result in the loss of up to 20,000 jobs at ICI in the longer term. These will not all be in the form of redundancies, many will go through the sale of parts of the group. ICI has some of the best redundancy terms in British manufacturing industry and the group is believed to have calculated the average cost of losing one job at £30,000.

The group is continuing to invest. In conjunction with its Hong Kong partner Swire Pacific, it is building a £13 million paint factory in Guangdong Province, formerly Canton Province, in mainland China. ICI, which owns Dulux paints, will start construction early next year.

Tomorrow
The Times starts a three part series tracing the history of ICI over the past decade, outlining the ambitions of Hanson, and tracing the options for restructuring Britain's largest chemical company.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar 1.6880 (+0.0425)
German mark 2.9553 (+0.0041)
Exchange index 91.1 (+0.7)
STOCK MARKETS
FT 30 Share 1959.5 (+33.8)
FT-SE 100 2541.5 (+44.1)
New York Dow Jones 3016.32 (+35.55)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22866.36 (-271.42)

CBI says high street sales are 'no better, no worse'

By ANATOLE KALETSKY AND ROSS TIEMAN

SALES in Britain's high streets have stopped falling, although they remain severely depressed. According to the latest distributive trades survey from the Confederation of British Industry, published today, retailers sold about the same volume of goods last month as in May, but their orders to suppliers continued to weaken slightly.

A majority of shopkeepers questioned by the CBI continued to report that sales were worsening, but the size of this majority was smaller than last month.

The mixed results of the survey, which the CBI described broadly as "no better, no worse", coincided with a London Chamber of Commerce study that noted an improved mood among service companies, but said consumer confidence in the capital remained overshadowed by unemployment fears.

The CBI report will be followed today by the

official statistics on June retail sales. These figures will be watched closely by economists and financial markets. They will give the best indication so far of whether consumer demand has bottomed out, supporting the government's increasingly confident predictions of an economic recovery before the year-end. According to a survey of analysts conducted on Friday by MMS, the financial research group, City expectations for the retail sales figures range from a fall of 1.1 per cent to a rise of 0.8 per cent. In May, retail sales fell by 0.3 per cent.

The surveys published today appear to confirm the growing view in the City that contraction of the economy, which began last summer, was coming to a halt. But they provided scant evidence of the "great improvement" in economic conditions forecast last week by John Major, the prime minister.

Nigel Whittaker, chairman of the CBI's dis-

tributive trades panel, said: "While retail sales for the time of year have deteriorated significantly since the beginning of the year, sales volumes have not worsened further since May. They continue to bump along the bottom."

Asked whether sales were higher or lower than a year ago, respondents to the CBI survey, which covers 15,000 retail and wholesale outlets, reported that sales were lower by a balance 20 per cent. This compared with a negative balance of 28 per cent in May and 30 per cent in January. Among retailers, the negative balance was 4 per cent, against 8 per cent in May and 7 per cent in January. Because consumer demand was weaker than expected, retailers and wholesalers said they would reduce even further their orders from suppliers. Retailers reported cutting orders by a balance of 18 per cent, compared with 17 per cent in May. However, the 26 per cent balance of wholesalers cutting orders last month was

smaller than the 48 per cent reported in May.

The impact of weak demand in the motor trade, which shows no sign of improvement, according to the CBI survey, was felt again on the shop floor last week when Rover and Ford announced plans to increase short-time working. Motor traders reported a severe decline in sales in June, to a level well down on a year ago. Stocks of cars in the showrooms remain too high, they say.

In London, where the impact of the recession first became apparent a year ago, the chamber of commerce says the rate of decline has begun to slow for the first time. Even so, only 36 per cent of firms in the service sector expect their sales and profits to improve in the next 12 months. The contraction of the capital's manufacturing companies continues unabated. The rate of job losses remains high. Investment plans have been scaled back for the fourth quarter in succession.

BAA in talks for Denver contract

From PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

BAA is in talks over a multi-million dollar contract to manage the food, drink and retail stores at Denver Airport, forecast to be the third busiest in America within nine years.

The British company could also make a bid to run other services when the \$2.4 billion airport opens in October 1993. Baggage and cargo handling, aircraft ground services and hotel development could all go to outsiders.

BAA, the world's largest independent airport operator, held abortive talks with Denver two years ago about operating the retail concessions and taking a direct investment in the airport. Its renewed interest is believed to be linked to United Airlines decision to make the new airport one of its key hubs.

Stephen Wolf, president of United, has made it clear he is impressed with BAA's airport management. United has applications with the American and British authorities for flights from Chicago into Stansted, where BAA's terminal is looking for customers.

United already operates from Denver and plans to increase to 45 gates, with a potential 300 daily departures. The airport is also the major hub for Continental Airlines, with 250 departures a day.

BAA has already beaten four competitors and signed a similar master management concession agreement for the new terminal at Pittsburgh International Airport, the key hub for USAir.

Under the deal, BAA will pay Pittsburgh a flat fee per passenger, plus a share of the profits. In the first year the airport is likely to be paid \$4.6 million, or 40 cents per passenger, plus \$4 million profit share. Over the life of the 15-year contract, which starts on October 1 next year, the airport would be paid a minimum of \$75 million, plus a share of profits, estimated at more than \$100 million.

BAA estimates that gross revenues in the first year will be \$58 million and the total gross revenues for the first ten years of the contract could total \$694 million.

Alan Stewart, Pittsburgh Airport's deputy aviation director, said: "None of the five proposals were very much different when it came to calculating gross revenues, but BAA's proposal stood out because it gave us a share of the bottom line."

Sheikh seeks to halt BCCI winding-up

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England will be challenged by the ruler of Abu Dhabi in the High Court today, as it applies to place Bank of Credit and Commerce International into official liquidation.

Representatives of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, whose family controls 77 per cent of BCCI, will ask for an adjournment to give them more time to decide whether the bank should be rescued or whether its one and quarter million depositors worldwide should be compensated.

The application will be supported by BCCI staff and customers, who still hope the sheikh will arrange a lifeboat for the collapsed bank. If the Abu Dhabi authorities are successful, BCCI's 40,000 British depositors could be forced to wait months for compensation. The Bank of England originally moved the

hearing forward from October so that its deposit protection board could begin paying compensation next month.

The Bank has, meanwhile, refused to comment on reports that it was warned by British intelligence services last year that BCCI was being used by Abu Nidal, the Arab terrorist.

Sources close to the Bank say it knew BCCI was being used to channel money around the world to fund terrorist activities, but decided the operation was not serious enough to warrant the closure of the \$20 billion bank and the damage subsequently caused to depositors.

The Bank of England is said to have received a report from Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor, on the bank's terrorist connections shortly before BCCI was closed on July 5. With branches in 69 countries and lax reporting and client identification procedures, BCCI was

an ideal vehicle for the illegal arms trade, as well as for laundering drugs money.

The court hearing heralds another testing week for Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank Governor, who appears before the Commons Treasury select committee tomorrow to explain his actions in the BCCI affair.

He will face renewed pressure to explain why the Bank refused to close BCCI when it was told about irregular transactions early last year. Other MPs are demanding to know why the bank did not try to keep BCCI afloat and arrange a rescue with Sheikh Zayed.

Last Wednesday, Mr Leigh-Pemberton visited Abu Dhabi to deliver a report from Price Waterhouse, which revealed the massive systematic fraud that forced the bank to order BCCI's shutdown. His efforts, failed to avert a clash with Sheikh Zayed, who is furious that he was not consulted about the closure.

The Governor, whose resignation has been called for by BCCI depositors and staff, still believes the Bank did all it could to regulate BCCI fully, and closed it as soon as it discovered that the fraud was too large to be remedied.

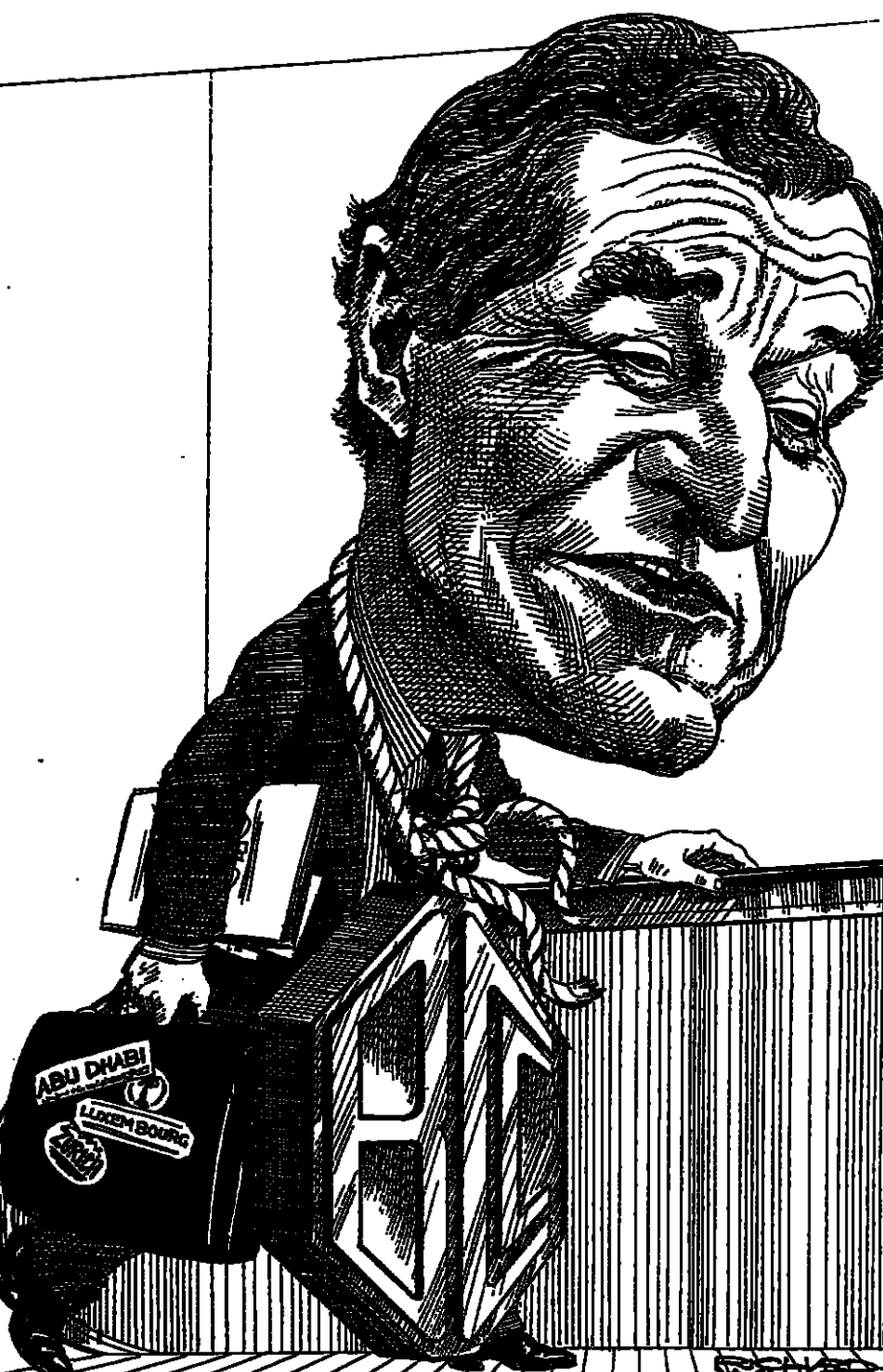
Events at the end of the week are also likely to cause him some disquiet. On Friday, Lloyds is expected to reveal a slump of up to two-thirds in pre-tax profits to £150 million for the first half.

Lloyds ushers in a bank reporting season that will show record bad debt provisions. Midland is expected to record a further loss and cut its dividend once more, while National Westminster may only break even.

Black network, page 1
Bernard Levin, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Sheikh Zayed: more time



Weighted down: Robin Leigh-Pemberton faces a testing time over his role in the BCCI affair

CBI warns of common pension cost

JOHN Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, has issued a warning that a pension ruling by the European Court of Justice could wreak more damage on a large part of British industry than the recession.

The cost to British business could be up to £50 billion, Mr Banham claimed, although this is thought to be a worst-case estimate. The CBI, with Mercer Fraser, the consultant, is undertaking a survey to establish the financial impact of the pensions ruling. Mr Banham's warning, published in an article in *The Times* today, comes after last year's ruling that equal pay for men and women also applies to pensions. The case did not resolve whether the ruling should apply retrospectively.

Cost of equality, page 23

Britain a non-runner in Olympics

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITAIN will never be able to mount a serious bid for the Olympic Games without a marked change in planning policy, according to Denton Hall, one of the country's leading solicitors on planning and leisure matters.

The solicitor's new leisure group believes the current planning system makes building sports stadia almost impossible and has left Britain critically short of modern venues for large-scale sporting events. Denton Hall estimates that four new national and 15 regional stadia are needed. Building them could cost as much as £2 billion, but would create tens of thousands of jobs.

Having at least some of these facilities in place will be vital if a British city is to mount a credible bid to host the Olympic Games. Margaret Casely-Hayford, one of the founders of the leisure group, believes British cities ought to have learned from the Los Angeles Games, whose commercial success was depen-

dent on much of the larger facilities being in place already.

She said: "Whichever the city that makes a bid, it must be able to show that it would not be developing the facilities purely in reaction to the bid being successful. Some of the facilities must be in place already."

Denton Hall believes planning is the biggest hurdle facing would-be stadium developers. At present, county councils have no requirement to include the need for such large-scale leisure developments in their structure plans. As a result, proposals to build stadia tend to be nipped in the bud early in the planning process. Ms Casely-Hayford says that the same flaw in planning policy is making it very difficult for football clubs to bring their grounds up to the standards required after Lord Justice Taylor's report on facilities. For many clubs, moving to a modern, all-seater stadium is the only economic way of meeting the safety standards required and the

more sophisticated back-up facilities that the customer demands.

Ms Casely-Hayford believes the solution is in the hands of the environment department. She said: "What we need is for government policy to encourage the county councils to make provision in their structure plans for stadia of a certain size per every so many hundred thousand of population."

Such a directive from the DoE would mean that county councils would have to include the need in structure plans, while the per capita qualification would prevent stadia springing up everywhere. For a large-scale development such as a football stadium, any application would ultimately be decided by a public enquiry. With a positive DoE directive, Ms Casely-Hayford believes would-be developers would know that applications would be looked on favourably, once appropriate sites were found. After one or two trial applications, the right locations would find themselves.

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Business returns to normal as Japan slams lid on scandal

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

THE Japanese have a proverb that encapsulates the reaction to the country's securities industry scandal: "Put a lid on something that stinks".

Scapegoats have been found and ranks have now closed throughout Japan's financial, business and political circles. For the benefit of the public image of the finance ministry, investigations are, however, continuing into the compensation for stock and bond market losses paid to favoured clients by Nomura Securities, Daiwa Securities, Nikko Securities and Yamaichi Securities, the four largest brokers, despite allegations that the ministry knew about such deals all along.

The four have admitted paying ¥127 billion (£552 million) between October 1987 and March last year to 229 leading corporate clients. There is speculation that

another 3,000 to 4,000 individuals, on a list that probably includes prominent politicians, were also compensated.

Nomura and Securities have also been accused of manipulating share prices on behalf of a Japanese gangster. Both firms have acknowledged affiliate company links to organised crime, but deny ramping share prices.

The Nikkei average lurched daily last week on nervous expectations of new scandals. The market has now, however, been given three indications that the authorities are unwilling to pursue investigations too deeply. This signals an end to the affair, and buying on the Tokyo stock exchange remained fairly strong on Friday, as intended, closing just 42 points lower at 22,866.36.

First, Minoru Nagaoka, the

stock exchange president, declared that Nomura had not been manipulating stock prices on behalf of gangsters.

Second, the ruling Liberal Democratic party blocked an opposition effort on Thursday to have brokerage executives testify in the parliament about the scandals.

Third, an official said on Wednesday that his ministry will neither investigate nor restrain brokerage firms from conducting business with gangster syndicates. Japanese business and political links with mobsters would, if fully investigated, be likely to bring down a list of high-ranking financial, business and political leaders.

The cast of accused has now performed its public displays of remorse and offered apologies. A notice posted by the "Big Four" in all Japanese national daily newspapers offered "humble apologies" for treating individual investors unfairly and bringing about this disgraceful affair. A selection of "punishments", all risible in their leniency by western standards, has also been imposed.

The presidents of Nomura and Nikko resigned, only to be instantly appointed deputy chairmen of their companies. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, whose ministry has been shamed over its negligence in policing the markets, has taken a three-month 10 per cent pay cut; and the Big Four securities companies refrained from soliciting business for four days.

The mood in Tokyo is now optimistic, and many businessmen are talking of seeing the Nikkei average climb once again to the 30,000 level. They see no need for any reform of business practices or new controls on the markets. A rising market such as they envisage will depend for its engine, as it traditionally has, on just the kind of collusive and manipulative practices glimpsed in the last few weeks.

HKSE to vote on further reform

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong stock exchange is headed for another major reform, the second since the government removed Ronald Li, its former chairman, in January 1988.

The exchange is to vote on a restructuring plan which would give it a non-profit status and broaden its representation of international brokers. Its 688 members will decide at a meeting on August 19 whether to amend the constitution to prevent it from declaring dividends or issuing bonus shares.

They will also decide whether to abolish proxy voting and to have members of the management council chosen on the basis of the volume of business they generate. This would guarantee a greater representation for the larger international brokers who handle an increasing proportion of turnover, but who seldom get voted on to council because of the support the smaller bro-

kers garner by proxy. If the exchange proposals receive a three-quarters majority approval, the council will have its membership enlarged to accommodate more independent, or non-broker members.

Robert Owen, head of the Securities and Futures Commission, said: "The people with the greatest interest in market development are those who transact most business. In the last two years, market development impetus has suffered from the fact that council composition has become significantly less representative."

The exchange, formed from a merger of four smaller ones by Mr Li in 1986, is a limited company with accumulated profits of HK\$226 million (£17.5 million) from seat purchases and transaction levies. It does not pay dividends to members but the SFC wants that formalised to make it a non-profit organisation.



Just the ticket: Rodney Pangbourne, left, London Buses finance director, hands over responsibility for the bus network's computer systems to Tony Robinson, of Hoskyns Group, Britain's largest computer services company

Holmes rebels seek meeting

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

DISSIDENT shareholders of Holmes Protection, the American security and alarm group, have called for a special general meeting in order to co-opt five new directors, led by Sir Ian MacGregor, on to the board of the troubled group.

The shareholders, speaking for 39.4 per cent of the group's shares, which are listed in London only, are calling for an urgent meeting, but their demands are likely to be resisted by the Holmes board, led by

Thomas Meyer, the chairman. Moves to settle the dispute privately failed last week. Mr Meyer, a former director of Thorn EMI, was appointed last September.

The five nominees are: Sir Ian MacGregor; Eric Kohn, a former director; Keith Anderson; the Honourable Barbara Thomas; and Pierre Besucher. The resignation of directors of the current board is not being called for in the letter. The nominees hold 25.4 per cent

between them and have the support of a number of institutional shareholders, including Scottish Amicable which holds 10 per cent of the shares.

Holmes Protection, which is attempting to renegotiate borrowing terms for its \$62 million of debt, is obliged to hold the meeting but can delay it for some time. The board has the support of at least 20 per cent of the shareholders. The shares currently trade at 44p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Pan Am turns down Northwest route bid

PAN AM, America's bankrupt airline, has rejected an offer from Northwest Airlines, the fourth largest in America, for its five-times-a-week service from Detroit to London. The airline offered \$20 million for the Los Angeles-Mexico City service. Pan Am says the London route is part of a \$260 million package it has agreed to sell to Delta Airlines, America's third largest operator.

Delta, which is now considering an investment link with Pan Am as an alternative to purchasing assets, had agreed to buy its routes to Europe, Asia and Africa, its Boston-New York-Washington shuttle and 45 planes. That would leave Pan Am with its profitable Latin American routes. A bid for these from United Airlines, which bought Pan Am's routes into Heathrow last spring, has been rejected by creditors as too low.

Role of gas 'to grow'

NATURAL gas will provide a growing proportion of Europe's energy needs as it becomes the favoured fuel for new power stations, according to a trends forecast by DRI/McGraw-Hill. Demand for oil is set to increase steadily, but a rise in prices in the first decade of the next century and growing road congestion are expected to constrain demand, even though energy is set to stay cheap in the medium term, the study says.

BA books in with Hilton

HILTON International, Ladbroke Group's hotel subsidiary, has become British Airways' favourite hotel partner worldwide, having ousted Inter-Continental and Marriott in some locations. Hilton is now BA's hotel partner in 38 places. Michael Hurst, chairman and chief executive, said business was "rapidly returning to normal levels" after the tourist slump in the wake of the Gulf war and the worldwide economic slowdown.

Australia Gatt moves

AUSTRALIA may consider joining a North American or Asian trading bloc if the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks are unsuccessful. Neal Blewett, the Australian trade minister, said. He told a television programme that if the GATT meetings failed to agree on agricultural reform, Australia would have to recognise the world would be a much tougher trading place.

"We're going to have to look at the possibilities of a closer relationship with North America or with the Asian area," he said. "I fear the trade war between the United States and the European Community will mount, and that of course affects our farmers. Ultimately there may be the development of anti-tariff trading blocs and we will have to look at the options."

Air delays cost Fr100m

AIR traffic delays cost Air France, the French airline, Fr100 million last month, Bernard Attali, the chairman, said. In an interview in *Le Journal du Dimanche*, a French newspaper, M Attali said 30 per cent of flights experienced delays, which were more often than not the fault of congestion in the skies. He said: "These air control problems cost us no less than Fr400 million in 1990 and Fr100 million in last June alone."

Kuwait seeks £14 billion

KUWAIT says world banks are clamouring to lend it cash for post-war rebuilding. But Nasser al-Rodhan, finance minister, said his country would borrow 7 billion dinars (£14 billion) and not the full 10 billion dinars allowed by the Emir. He also said Kuwait was planning to merge heavily indebted state-controlled banks to save them from financial ruin and was thinking of allowing foreign banks into the emirate.

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PARTICULARS OF AN ISSUE OF £1,000,000,000 9 per cent CONVERSION LOAN, 2011

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Amount paid on issue	£30.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 19th August 1991	£30.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 9th September 1991	£32.50 per cent
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 12TH JANUARY AND 12TH JULY	

This loan is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961, subject as regards securities payable to bearer to the provisions of Section 7 of the Trustee Act 1925. Application has been made to the Council of the International Stock Exchange for the loan to be admitted to the Official List.

- The whole of the above loan has been issued to the Bank of England on 19th July 1991 at a price of £92.50 per cent. The amount paid on issue was £30.00 per cent, the amount payable on 19th August 1991 will be £30.00 per cent and the amount payable on 9th September 1991 will be £32.50 per cent.
- The principal of and interest on the loan will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
- The loan will be repaid at par on 12th July 2011.
- The loan will be issued in the form of stock which will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Stock registered at the Bank of England held for the account of members of the Central Gilts Office (CGO) Service will also be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963 and the relevant subordinate legislation. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.
- On or after 10th December 1991 stock may be exchanged into bonds which will be available in denominations of £100, £200, £500, £1,000, £5,000, £10,000 and £50,000. Bonds will be free of stamp duty.
- Stock will be interchangeable with bonds without payment of any fee.
- Interest will be payable half-yearly on 12th January and 12th July. The first interest payment will be made as on 12th January 1992 at the rate of £3.6660 per £100 of the loan. Warrants for interest on stock will be transmitted by post; income tax will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest on bonds to bearer, less income tax, will be paid by coupon.
- Stock and bonds of this issue and the interest payable thereon will be exempt from all United Kingdom taxation, present or future, so long as it is shown that the stock or bonds are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Further, the interest payable on stock and bonds of this issue will be exempt from United Kingdom income tax, present or future, so long as it is shown that the stock or bonds are in the beneficial ownership of persons who are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, persons are not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom if they are regarded as not ordinarily resident for the purposes of United Kingdom income tax.
- Applications for exemption from United Kingdom income tax should, in the case of interest on stock, be made in such form as may be required by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. Bearer bond coupons will be paid without deduction of United Kingdom income tax if accompanied by a declaration of exemption in such form as may be required by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the Inspector of Foreign Dividends, Inland Revenue, Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0DF.
- These exemptions will not entitle a person to claim repayment of tax deducted from interest unless the claim to such repayment is made within the time limit provided for such claims under income tax law; under the provisions of the Taxes Management Act 1970, Section 43(1), no such claim will be outside this time limit if it is made within six years from the date on which the interest is payable. In addition, these exemptions will not apply so as to exclude interest from any computation for taxation purposes of the profits of any trade or business carried on in the United Kingdom. Moreover, the allowance of the exemptions is subject to the provisions of any law, present or future, of the United Kingdom directed to preventing avoidance of taxation by persons domiciled, resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, and, in particular, the interest will not be exempt from income tax

where, under any such provision, it falls to be treated for the purpose of the Income Tax Acts as income of any person resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

13. Until payment in full has been made and a completed registration form submitted to the Bank of England, the loan (other than amounts held in the CGO Service for the account of members) will be represented by letters of allotment.

14. Payment in full may be made at any time prior to 9th September 1991 but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on any overdue amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the due date for the relevant payment, and for LIBOR a partly-paid letter of allotment sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate. Default in due payment of any amount in respect of the loan will render the allotment of such loan liable to cancellation and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

15. Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request to the Bank of England, New Issues, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UW received not later than 5th September 1991. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment (but a letter cannot be split if any payment is overdue).

16. Members of the CGO Service may, subject to the provisions governing membership of that Service, surrender a partly-paid letter of allotment to the CGO for cancellation and for the amount of the loan comprised therein to be credited to the member's account. The member who is shown by the accounts of the CGO as being entitled to any amount of the loan shall, to the exclusion of all persons previously entitled to such loan and any person claiming any entitlement thereto, be treated as entitled to such loan as if that member were the holder of a letter of allotment and be liable for the payment of any amount due in respect of such loan. A member will be entitled at any time prior to registration to withdraw, in multiples of £100, amounts of the loan credited to the member's account and to be credited to the member's account comprising such loan, and such member shall be liable for the payment of all amounts becoming due thereafter in respect of such loan unless and until that letter of allotment is surrendered to the CGO for cancellation as aforesaid.

17. Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the first instalment is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 9th September 1991; registration of amounts of the loan held for the account of members of the CGO Service will be effected under separate arrangements.

18. Until the close of business on 10th December 1991, stock issued in accordance with this notice will be known as 9 per cent Conversion Loan, 2011 "A". The interest due as on 12th January 1992 will be paid separately on holdings of the existing 9 per cent Conversion Loan, 2011 "A" and on holdings of "A" stock registered at the close of business on 10th December 1991; consequently, interest mandates, authorities for income tax exemption and other notifications recorded in respect of holdings of existing stock will not be applied to the payment of interest due as on 12th January 1992 on holdings of "A" stock.

19. Transfers of 9 per cent Conversion Loan, 2011 "A" may be lodged at the Bank of England for registration in that form up to 9th December 1991. After that date, for purposes of certification, the "A" stock will not be stock until it has been registered at the Bank of England, New Issues, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UW; at the Central Gilts Office, Bank of England, 1 Bank Buildings, Princess Street, London, EC2A 8EU or at any of the Branches or Agents of the Bank of England; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyné Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; or at any office of The International Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

20. Copies of this notice may be obtained by post from the Bank of England, New Issues, Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 1UW; at the Central Gilts Office, Bank of England, 1 Bank Buildings, Princess Street, London, EC2A 8EU or at any of the Branches or Agents of the Bank of England; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyné Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; or at any office of The International Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND LONDON

19th July 1991

Navan to dig deep in East Europe

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

NAVAN Resources, the junior Irish minerals explorer capitalised at £800,000, is out to dig, shovel and mine a host of mineral deposits in Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania where, to date, few western mining groups have dared to tread.

Navan is already associated with MIM Holdings, the Australian mining group, and exploring for gold in Ireland, Scotland and Spain. It believes the geology of Eastern Europe is tempting.

Colin Andrew, Navan's managing director, says there is a strong mining tradition in Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania that goes back more than 2,000 years, and that joint venture negotiations to finance accelerated development of five Hungarian projects are in hand.

The eastern deposits that Navan hopes to help develop include gypsum, ilite (fire-clay), silica sand (used to make glass white), bentonite (very useful for cat litter) and manganese.

There are also prospects for lead, zinc, copper, silver, and gold. There is even the hint of rhodium, a member of the platinum metals group, the price of which averaged £2,346 an ounce in the year ended March, compared with a 1990 average of £1,000 an ounce. Rhodium's current price of \$3,775 an ounce towers above Friday's gold price of \$370 an ounce.

Navan believes that the world's larger mining companies consider Eastern Europe too risky as a mining province, and that in any case Eastern European deposits would be too small in their life. But junior companies can tread where the larger groups have been unwilling to go, and Navan claims a mining technology that "finger prints" minerals deposits from satellites.

Development of mining projects in Eastern Europe could involve a capital outlay of between \$10 million and \$20 million, Navan's share of which has yet to be established. Navan would also have to consider how to fund its percentage of whatever costs are finally involved.

Politics and the growth in supply signal caution

THE outlook for the gilt market is becoming increasingly more positive, despite the growing supply of new gilts. In the months ahead, convincing evidence of dramatic disinflation and the prospect of gradual reductions in base rates will undoubtedly result in many institutional investors increasing their exposure to gilts relative to other international bond markets.

Current levels of real yields will moderate reflecting not only an improvement in the market's inflation expectations but also as a result of sluggish growth prospects for the real economy.

So far, there is little sign of an end to the current recession and the likelihood is that a modest upturn in activity will be delayed towards the end of the year. However, the official data is expected to show that real GDP growth has registered its deepest decline in the second quarter of this year. Thereafter, recovery in real GDP growth will be painfully slow and it may take two years for the economy to return to its trend rate of growth.

Research by my colleague, Paula Neal, and myself puts the cost of lost output this year and next at £50 billion in real prices, almost 8 per cent of GDP each year. The trend rate of growth in the economy, 2 to 2.5 per cent per annum, is likely to weaken over the medium term as a result of the collapse in fixed investment.

Sterling's membership of the ERM adds to the deflationary pressures during the adjustment now facing the economy. As other ERM economies discovered, the impact of exchange rate discipline depressed export growth. Not surprisingly, while this resulted in an improving trade balance, the impact on domestic output was negative over two to three years. Admittedly, the ERM adjustment process facing Britain may be shorter given the timing of the pre-ERM monetary squeeze, and the positive effect of the recession on inflation and the trade gap. Even so, the bonus of sharply lower base rates, below 10 per cent, may have to wait until the markets are completely convinced that un-

derlying inflation has been squashed and that monetary and fiscal policies remain anti-inflationary.

Of course, it has been slippage in fiscal policy and the deterioration in the funding outlook which has worried the gilt market of late. On our estimates, the PSBR will be £13 billion this fiscal year rising to £20 billion in 1992-93. Such sums, as a percentage of GDP, are not inordinately large compared to fiscal developments in other economies. Indeed, the increase in gilt liquidity from unusually low level over the past three years will be welcomed by the

market, especially if the range of instruments on offer is complemented by a build-up in equi gilt issues.

It is worth noting that in a G7 context, UK fiscal prospects compare favourably with other economies. The OECD regularly publishes estimates of "sustainability gaps" for each economy's fiscal policy over a three-year time horizon. The "sustainability gap" measures the extent to which net public debt (as a percentage of GNP) would change as a result of existing taxation and spending policies. On this criterion, the UK (along with Japan) has the most "sustainable" fiscal policy as well as possessing one of the lowest levels of net public debt in the G7 area. Economies such as Germany, Italy

and America are the worst culprits in terms of "unsustainable" fiscal policies. America, for example, is estimated to have a financing requirement of nearly \$200 billion for the second half of this year which will almost certainly maintain upward pressure on American bond yields.

Apart from supply, the gilt market has also been worried about political prospects. Over the rest of this year, lower mortgage rates should start to improve the government's opinion poll ratings and lead to some reduction in political uncertainty. However, unemployment which is on target for nearly 3 million is still a blackspot. The biggest unemployment increases have been in the Conservative South and this could easily split the vote in favour of the Liberals to the advantage of Labour. The timing of a general election is also crucial.

Later this year would be the best date for a general election as far as the inflation/interest rate environment is concerned. A delay will likely be against a background of imperceptible economic recovery, 3 million unemployed and expectations of firmer interest rates than what might be a floor of 10 per cent.

In the meantime, sterling can be expected to shrug off exaggerated talk of currency crises. Under ERM, even a guaranteed reduced exchange rate variability against European currencies as well as a durable reduction in the rate of inflation.

NEIL MACKINNON
Chief Economist, Yamaichi

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Gorbachev's Borodino in London

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Looking one layer beneath the surface, President Gorbachev's "historic" visit to London last week seemed like a comprehensive failure. The Group of Seven's six-point programme of economic assistance had not a single item of economic substance. Without even a formal communiqué or joint declaration, Mr Gorbachev had literally nothing to show for his trip to his critics in Moscow.

Why then did he settle for such an unsatisfactory outcome? Was he too ignorant to understand that there was nothing in the elaborate gift-wrapping of his package from the G7? Perhaps he did not realise, for example, that "associate status" at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank was a far cry from real membership.

Economically, associate status would offer the Soviet government the worst of both worlds — submission to a kind of outside interference that even banana republics resent, without the financial support that sweetens this political humiliation and relieves the population's economic suffering. As a diplomatic gesture, the

offer of associate status was a clear insult. Why should the Soviet Union not be allowed to apply for full membership? Does it have a worse record on democracy, human rights or even the acceptance of capitalism than China?

Listening to Mr Gorbachev's post-summit presentation, his ignorance was certainly striking. The Soviet president declared, for example, that "dozens of Western investment projects are almost concluded, but they have run up against barriers imposed by the West, such as Cocom, customs restrictions, Gatt, the IMF". If such barriers were dismantled, then "extremely large-scale projects in energy, chemicals and distribution would almost immediately evolve". Western businessmen who have been thwarted for years by Soviet ideology, bureaucracy and political confusion would be surprised to learn that the real villains were Cocom, Gatt and the IMF. Yet

Mr Gorbachev's obvious failure to understand the market cannot explain the summit's hollow result. Mr Gorbachev has plenty of advisers who know the West well enough to distinguish between sops and genuine concessions. And he could surely have pressed the G7 harder. Money might not have been available, but he could have sought a commitment to ease Cocom, or a reference to Most Favoured Nation trade status, or an acceptance, if only in principle, of full membership of the IMF. On the day of the Start disarmament breakthrough and a week before the possible UN vote on Iraq, it would have been impossible to deny Mr Gorbachev such costless favours.

Perhaps, then, the decision not to ask for anything was a calculated move.

Ever since Kutuzov's army was overrun by Napoleon at Borodino, Russia has won its wars through strategic retreat. Throughout his political career, Mr Gorbachev has shown his mastery of this principle. Mr Gorbachev has reached the top and stayed there by avoiding decisive battles until the enemy was exhausted, confused and overstretched. If that has meant giving ground, losing time and taking casualties, then so be it. This now seems to be his strategy on Western aid.

The main objective of the London visit was probably not to win any particular concessions. It

was to begin a process of "constructive engagement", a process that would draw Western governments and institutions ever deeper into the Soviet economic hinterland.

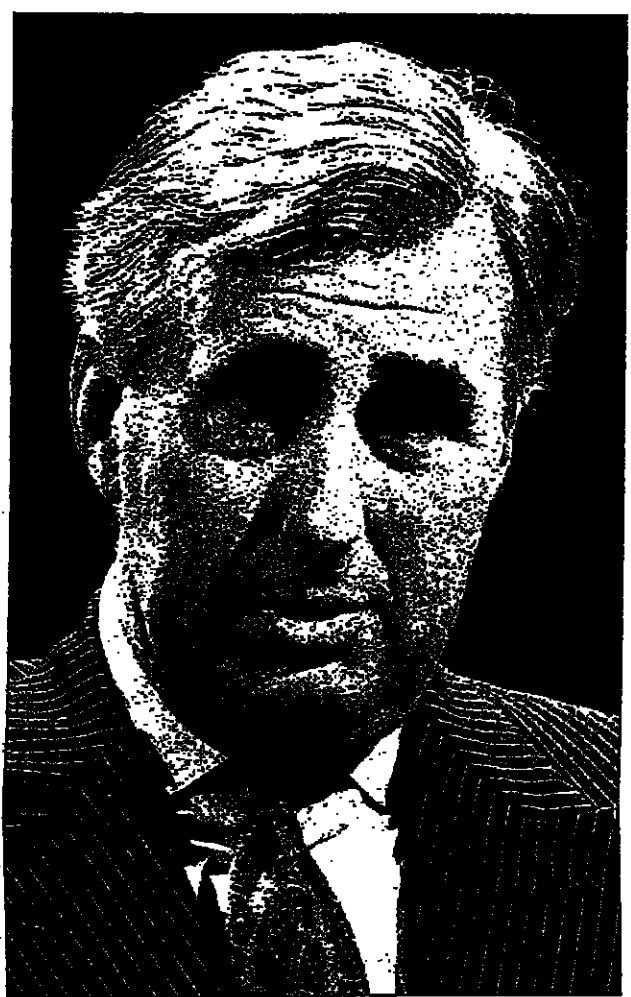
With every mission from the IMF, the G7 and the World Bank, the indispensable need for financial support would become clearer. Instead of the Soviets begging for aid, the Western officials would become their surrogates. Let the IMF calculate, for example, that rouble convertibility will need a multi-billion dollar stabilisation fund. Let the World Bank prove that energy output can only be restored with imports of oilfield equipment backed by export credits. If the G7 is unwilling to provide the money, let it explain to the IMF how the market system can be introduced on the cheap.

President Bush said at his press conference, just after the G7 meeting, that the West would

now "try to help in every practical way we can". The echo of George Marshall's 1947 speech was uncanny, even if purely coincidental. America would "help to place Europe on its feet economically so far as it may be practical for us to do so" was all the American secretary of state formally promised when he launched the Marshall Plan. Domestically, the Borodino strategy of simply drawing in the Western institutions and then waiting, may also have its advantages. The still coy relationship with the IMF leaves the option of further tactical fine-tuning; if necessary, the conservatives could be granted another "last chance" to present their alternative to the bourgeois reform programme. Of course the risks of this hedging are immense. The country's patience is running out, as the Soviet radicals are constantly warning. Yet their predictions of collapse and civil war are no closer to fulfilment today than they were a year ago. Russia's patience is vast, like its land. Time is still on the side of Mr Gorbachev and his slow-motion revolution.

Pension schemes count cost of equality

The European Court will soon reach a judgment that could cost British industry £50 billion. John Banham calls on the government to act before it is too late



Judgment day: John Banham gives pension warning

BRITAIN has only until the end of the month to submit evidence to the European Court of Justice on a vital test case covering the equalisation of pensions for men and women. A misinformed judgement could cost Britain's businesses up to £50 billion. This is a good deal more than last year's retained profits, and up to ten times their annual spending on research and development.

The pension schemes, on which the burden would initially fall, do not have this kind of money to spare. They would simply pass the bill to the companies which stand behind them. Meeting the enormous additional costs could destroy the chance of economic recovery for many of our long-established firms.

The problem arises because the Court decided last year, in the case of Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange, that occupational pensions are pay and, therefore, should be subject to equal treatment between men and women under Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome. This overturned our domestic legislation, framed to suit a previous European directive, but the European Court of Justice has final and absolute authority when it comes to interpreting the treaty. There is no dispute about the desirability of equality. We all want to achieve equal treatment for men and women, but it remains particularly difficult while women can get money from the state scheme earlier than men.

A few weeks ago, Tony

Newton, the social security secretary, indicated that the government wants to sort out this problem. Rightly, he thinks people should be made aware of the true costs if, for example, the government were to give men a full pension at 60, rather than

'Meeting the enormous costs could destroy the chance of recovery for many of our firms'

move (as the Germans and others in the EC have done) to a higher pensionable age for women, or for both. In the meantime, companies are no clearer about what to do about their occupational pensions schemes — where the potential costs of a wrong move on equal treatment are even higher. When sorting out the money needed to fund pen-

sions, for example, can they still make separate actuarial calculations for men and women, recognising the differing mortality rate between the sexes? Or must they move to a uniform arrangement, ignoring the reality that most women will enjoy their pensions for

longer because they tend to live longer?

The worst uncertainty concerns the treatment of pensions earned before the date of the Barber judgment. Equalisation on a retrospective basis could pose problems of tracing people and their entitlements over many years and from one job to another. The result would be a vast bill, run-

ning to £1 billion for one major British company alone — and dwarfing even the cost of a problem for many others. The government clearly recognises that this would be damaging to the economy, to jobs and to the competitiveness of UK businesses.

To help resolve these uncertainties, Mr Newton has offered financial backing for the case of the Coloroll pension funds' trustees, who are seeking guidance from the European Court on the obligations they face in the light of the Barber ruling as they attempt to wind up a range of pension funds. But the Coloroll case may well be too late. Other cases have already reached the Court, including one from runner from Germany, Moroni v Collo.

Here Michael Moroni, a 43-year-old, who left the employment of Firma Collo GmbH as long ago as 1983, wants to know if he can now look forward to enjoying the deferred pension they provide from the age of 60, as a woman would, instead of 65.

The European Court has shown itself willing to appreciate the potentially devastating costs of an upholding ruling and to recognise that companies acted in good faith in maintaining different pensions treatment for men and women. But we now have just a few days to explain to the Court why they should make clear that this kind of retrospective was never intended.

We still do not know the full dimensions of the problem in Britain. The CBI, with the help of Mercer Fraser, the actuaries and consultants, is undertaking a survey to find out.

But we do know that pension fund surpluses could not cope. They are already coming under pressure as record investment performance falters in the face of recession. The reality is that the highest costs would not occur where surpluses exist because, typically, pension provision has already been made more generous in these cases.

The problem is widespread, but does not fall evenly. It is probably at its worst in manufacturing, the sector most crucial to Britain's recovery and success in the single European market. Many long-established firms have shed

large numbers of staff in recent years in the drive towards competitive efficiency. They may have thousands of pensioners, but only hundreds of current employees actively contributing to their pension funds. To require them to treat the vast majority of existing pensioners — mostly male production-line workers — as if they had been subject to the retirement arrangements for the small number of female clerks who, in line with wartime sentiment, retired on full pension at 60, could be ruinous.

The CBI/Mercer Fraser survey is amassing evidence to show what damage an adverse ruling could do in Britain, and we are alerting employers across Europe to the problem.

The government has started to shift the log-jam caused by continuing inequality in the state scheme. Mr Newton has also shelved plans to raid pension fund surpluses to provide limited indication of pensioners. That is a welcome step, which the CBI had been urging on the government. It not only avoids appeasement of inflation, but also removes the danger of adding a further pension burden at the worst possible moment, with indus-

try in recession, and demonstrates to the European Court that the British government takes a serious view of the cost of pensions equalisation being made retrospective.

That is an important start. Three further moves are now needed.

First, the government must urgently prepare submissions on cases which are already before the European Court — including Moroni v Collo. We have only until the end of July to do so.

Second, it must encourage the European Court to look at the important Coloroll case before making its ruling.

Third, the government must explore now with other Community governments the need to give the Court a steer on this fundamental issue of retrospective, if necessary by clarifying what they intend the equal pay article of the Treaty of Rome to mean.

Urgent action is needed if we are to avoid sacrificing the interests of future stakeholders in British — and European — business to provide a windfall gain for previous generations of workers.

The author is director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

High pay blamed on non-executives

NON-EXECUTIVE directors do not act with sufficient independence and therefore share the blame in allowing controversial pay rises for chairman and chief executives in British industry, according to a study commissioned by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

The report, due to be published in the autumn, will press for a strengthening of the role of non-executive directors, especially on remuneration committees of quoted companies. These committees are usually, but not always, made up by a majority of non-executive directors and often include the chief executive.

The authors of the report suggest that the system would be much improved if these committees were made up exclusively of independent non-executive directors, who operated under strict guidelines. Professor Andrew Lickerish, of the London Business School, one of the authors, said: "If the non-executive directors are simply the golfing pals of the chairman there is no point in these committees. In the past the majority of non-executive directors

have been appointed through the old-boy network."

The issue, according to the authors, is not the quality of the directors as such, but the way in which they act, and the way they are appointed — usually by recommendation of the board and rubber-stamped by shareholders.

The report, however, rejected allegations that managers overstate the performance of their company to boost their pay. The problem was not the companies' financial accounting system, but the establishment of efficient accounting benchmarks to link the accounting and remuneration systems. The report said that the guidelines under which the remuneration systems operate in practice were insufficient.

The report also blamed insufficient disclosure requirements in Britain. "In contrast to the often higher level of disclosure in the US, the public in the UK usually has no idea upon what performance criteria managers are being judged."

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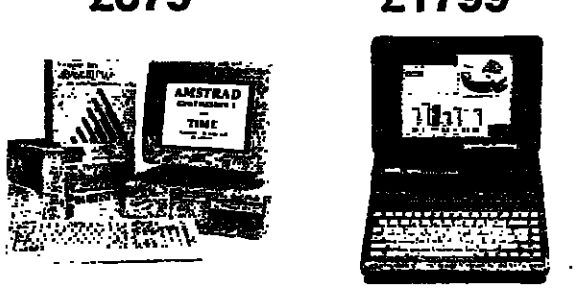
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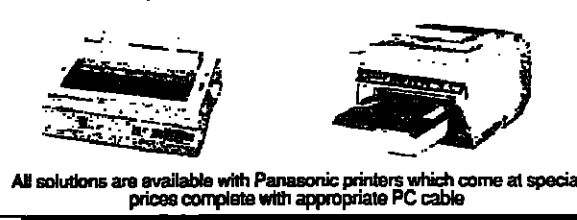
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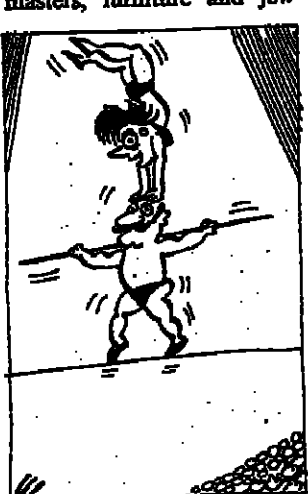
Bizarre reply to Kelt call

TO LOSE £2,400 and retain a sense of humour is no easy task. Wendy Mason, holder of 4,000 shares in Kelt, the highly geared energy company, has responded to the company's rights issue by posting back a couple of motions of her own for the extraordinary general meeting on July 29. She wants those who have been directors during the past two and a half years to repay at least 100 per cent of all remuneration, compensation and fees they have been paid. The "accruing fortune" would then be distributed among the rest of the shareholders. "This is, of course, monstrously bizarre," she says. "Almost as bizarre as Kelt's progress." Kelt has prudently fixed the time of the meeting for 10am, and Mason reckons she will be unable to make it from her home in Much Marcle, Herefordshire, in time. Kelt shares, worth 60p each two years ago, have

lost more than 99 per cent of their value since then.

Hammered home

NICE to know that we connoisseurs of fine arts are appreciated once more. Charles Allsopp, chairman at Christie's, the auctioneers, has written to clients to say that traditional items such as old masters, furniture and jew-



"That reminds me - how is Brent Walker these days?"

ellery are once again producing the most lucrative auctions. He adds: "Where the buyers are collectors or established dealers, and not speculators fed with borrowed money, works of art are changing hands for good prices." The image of a buoyant market free of riff-raff is somewhat spoiled, however, because later in the letter, Allsopp feels the need to offer prospective sellers an advance down payment on any items they care to sell.

BIMEC Industries has taken over a company making water storage tanks. It was founded in 1956 by, appropriately, Mike Waters and Norman Dewey.

That figures...

THOSE who studied differential calculus will understand the latest Department of Employment statistics. Lesser mortals please read this slowly. The increase in unemployment is the smallest since January and it is the third month in which the rate

of increase has fallen. It confirms a falling trend in the rate of increase. The increase in earnings has been on a downward trend for 10 months and is now 1 1/4 points lower than its peak. This is the sharpest fall in earnings growth since 1982. As Employment Secretary Michael Howard says: "The figures should be seen in context."

Mercer on menu

EXPENSE account gourmet hunches with vintage wines are harder to come by in the City these days, but Caroline Mercer has got round the problem by taking a course at the Leith School of Food and Wine. The former market-maker will tomorrow be declared winner of the Moët et Chandon most employable student award. It makes a change from Mercer's previous speciality of Japanese warrants. Raw fish is off the menu at the school run by Pru Leith, the culinary expert who used to contribute a column in *The Times*. The cooking, I am assured, is European.

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Kent put on a brave display against the West Indians before Simmons ends the day with a classic innings of power and precision

Taylor's century is great cause for celebration

By JOHN WOODCOCK

CANTERBURY (second day of three; West Indians won toss): West Indians, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 176 runs ahead of Kent.

THE Neil Taylor had some cause for celebration yesterday. Father and his daughter, Lauren's third, by making 138 not out against the West Indians at Canterbury.

Without him, Kent might well have been humiliated. Instead, they got to within 67 of the West Indians' first-innings total of 310 for seven declared, then declared themselves and took a couple of West Indian second-innings wickets into the bargain.

Any chance, though, that Kent might finish the day feeling they had held their own was dispelled by Simmons, who had time to bring the Caribbean in all its batting glory to Canterbury. Not even Frank Woolley or Leslie Ames could have played some of the strokes Simmons did as he raced to 81 in 59 balls.

Now in his tenth season as a capped player, Taylor has the solid, unruffled game to go with his build. I doubt

whether he gets himself out very often and, in the absence of Ambrose and Marshall, the West Indian fast bowlers seemed not to worry him. He played his game, hooking and driving when well into his innings and giving only one difficult chance.

That was when he was 48. He edged Walsby to Richards at first slip, stinging the West Indian captain enough for him to have to leave the field for a while. When Dujon went off, too, and Williams, who is not playing in the match, took over behind the stumps, with Kent's agreement, the umpires would not have it. The rules now state that substitutes shall not keep wicket.

Like Chris Smith, when the West Indians met Hampshire at the end of last month, Benson is not playing a match, ostensibly because of a back problem. A pity, because the England selectors are casting around for an opening batsman, preferably a left-hander, but only from among those who are looking for a scrap. In Benson's absence, Ward and Hinks went in first together yesterday and both were soon out.

Kent's early batting, Taylor

apart, was really very dismal. After Hinks had gone to a lovely catch by Lara, Cowdrey stayed for 40 minutes, doing no more than allow the ball to hit a limp bat. The first time he put bat to ball he ballooned a mistimed hook to mid-on.

Fleming's innings was just the reverse, which was more entertaining but briefer. Two crouching cover drives off Anthony were followed by another attempted hook and a running catch from mid-on.

Somewhere between the way Cowdrey played and the way Fleming did lies the answer for them both. It all has to do with judgement, with experience in fact, as Taylor showed so effectively and, eventually, so fluently.

His century is the fourth made against the West Indians in these Test Bitter Challenge matches, the others having come from Botham (161), Cook (162 not out), and Tavaré (109 not out). Taylor faced 224 balls, hit 18 fours and batted for five-and-a-quarter hours.

He and Simmons made the day for a good crowd, including lots of young who will remember it almost as well as the Taylors themselves.



Destroyer in chief: but Cowans could not help Middlesex beat Lancashire at Lord's

Randall stand insufficient

By RICHARD STREETON

WELLINGBOROUGH (Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Nottinghamshire by five runs)

11.00, 102 overs

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE county championship

SOUTHEND: Essex v Somerset

CHELTHAM: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Warwickshire

UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Lancashire

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Yorkshire

HOVE: Sussex v Leicestershire

KIDDERMINSTER: Worcestershire v Derbyshire

BAIN CLARKSON TROPHY: Herefordshire v Northamptonshire, Southhamptonshire v Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire

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Lancashire go top after Cowans has them reeling

By MARCUS WILLIAMS

LORD'S (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (4pts) beat Middlesex by two wickets

11.00, 102 overs

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE county championship

SOUTHEND: Essex v Somerset

CHELTHAM: Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Warwickshire

UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Lancashire

GUILDFORD: Surrey v Yorkshire

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Australian captures the Open Championship and finally rids himself of the haunting memories from St Andrews

Open-and-shut success for Baker-Finch

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IAN Baker-Finch yesterday turned the 120th Open Championship into a personal triumph seven years after the most harrowing experience of his career.

The Australian, aged 31, transformed the most open Open for years into an open-and-shut case when he spreadeagled the field with an outward half of 29 — only one shot more than the record.

His final round of 66 for a total of 272, eight under par, won him the silver claret jug, and a first prize of £90,000, by two strokes from Mike Harwood (67), another Australian, and by three from the Americans, Fred Couples (64) and Mark O'Meara (69).

It also laid to rest the ghosts of St Andrews because Baker-Finch had, at the home of golf in 1984, endured the hurt of capitulating in the final round with a 79. He had led for 36 holes in his inaugural Open but his initial approach on the last day disappeared into the Swilcan Burn along with his dreams.

Baker-Finch fought that evening to stop the tears from filling his eyes. He was concerned not so much for himself but for his country. "I felt the whole of Australia had sat up to watch me win the Open and that I let them down," he said.

He cried again yesterday although this time they were tears of joy. "The pain of losing before gave me the strength to win this time," he said. "It's a great feeling, something I'll cherish all my life. Now I want to fill the jug with something nice and cold this evening and enjoy it."

It is typical of Baker-Finch to think of others, as he commiserated with Harwood, and his country. The new Open champion is a paragon of virtue. Sure, he is tougher and stronger than the 1984 version; but he remains a genuine person with the touch of a genius.



His game has benefited in recent months by working with Mitchell Spearman, David Leadbetter's first lieutenant and the nephew of Marley Spearman, the former British champion, but it was on Peter Thomson's advice that he practised hard in the sand-belt area of Melbourne.

Thomson, five times Open champion and winner at Royal Birkdale in 1954 and 1965, encouraged Baker-Finch — born in Nambour, a sugar and timber town north of Brisbane — to move south from Queensland to develop his game at Royal Melbourne and Kingston Heath. He reasoned that the tight-knit fairways and slicker greens would complete Baker-Finch's education before he moved on to pastures abroad.

Baker-Finch read the much-maligned greens better than any other contender, especially on the first nine holes of the final round when, with five birdies in six holes, he forced the bookmakers to suspend betting.

That start was decisive. He distanced himself from his rivals so that an Open, which with only six shots separating 30 players seemed certain to be cut and thrust, became a stroll in the sun for only one. There was only a suggestion of a breeze when Baker-Finch set out, alongside O'Meara, with whom he shared the lead — one ahead of Eamonn Darcy and Harwood and two in front of Severiano Ballesteros.

Baker-Finch had been there before. Not only in 1984, when he played alongside Tom Watson, but 12 months ago when he learned another

valuable lesson as Nick Faldo cruised to victory. "In 1984, I was a starry-eyed kid having a good time," he said. "Last year, I learned from the way Faldo focused on everything he did."

O'Meara was hoping to win his first major championship on the course where he won the Lawrence Bailey International in 1987 but he soon knew his fate as Baker-Finch rattled home putts of 18, ten, eight, five and nine feet at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th.

It was the greatest start to a final round in Open Championship history and it condemned the other competitors to duel only for second place, although even that was beyond the likes of Faldo, the defending champion, and Ian Woosnam, the Masters golfer. Woosnam's six at the last for a 70 meant he finished in a share of seventeenth place with Faldo (68). Ballesteros, too, could do little other than shrug his shoulders as Baker-Finch swept clear. The Spaniard laboured to a 71.

Baker-Finch had still to run the gauntlet of Royal Birkdale's closing holes, albeit pursuing a comfortable cushion, but he did so with the minimum of fuss. Eamonn Darcy wilted, finishing with a 70 for a share of fifth place, but Harwood, with four birdies in his last 11 holes, kept his compatriot on his toes.

Baker-Finch, however, could enjoy those last few holes as he moved closer to becoming the fourth Australian to win the Open. In the end, he holed the winning putt from four inches, smiled, completed a low-five with Pete Bendor, his caddy, shook hands with O'Meara, took off his visor, acknowledged the response from the gallery and kissed his wife, Jenny, and daughter, Hailey.

"All I've thought about all week, other than golf, is making breakfast for my daughter," he said. "I've not even ready a newspaper. I might tomorrow..."



Starting at success: Baker-Finch drives off the fifth tee on his way to winning the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale yesterday

Support creates a winner

By PATRICIA DAVIES

JENNIE Baker-Finch, married to Ian for four years, is expecting their second child in October but walked the first 14 holes with her husband yesterday before going to collect from the canteen their daughter, Hayley, aged two-and-a-half and blissfully unaware of all the drama.

"It's wonderful," Jennie said, smiling and looking as relaxed as her husband had on the course. "He's played so well this year and been in contention nearly every Sunday but those near misses don't matter any more."

While Jennie was tramping outside the ropes, Baker-Finch had Pete Bendor at his side, the man who carried Greg Norman's bag the year he won at Turnberry. Bendor first caddied for Baker-Finch at the Kemper Open last year and, having worked for Norman, Jack Nicklaus and Ray Floyd was entitled to say, "I've been there. I know what it takes."

"He drives the ball like a machine," Bendor said, "and he's probably the best putter there is, the best I've ever worked for. He's a different player from Greg. Ian just finishes you to death and kills you with the putter."

Champion's acceptable side

AS SPOILSPORTS go Ian Baker-Finch is perfectly acceptable. The Open golf champion is tall, slim and elegant of attire as well as swing. The pity of it was that he ruined the day by running away from the field in the first seven holes yesterday rather than keeping the excitement at fever pitch over the last seven (John Hennessy writes).

Once he had popped in birdies at them all except the 1st and 5th, making no great demands on his putter, he established a five-shot lead

and there was little chance of his being overhauled. He seems much too experienced a campaigner for that to happen.

The statistics will show that there were only two shots between him and his compatriot Mike Harwood at the end, but they are not to be trusted. Playing the last with that comfortable bank balance he went left off the tee, to make sure, no doubt, of avoiding the out-of-bounds on the right. From the rough he came up short, chipped too

strong and missed the putt. Since he had another to spare, the occasion cannot have borne down on him too heavily.

If he had needed a patriotic spur at the start, it would have been the banner hoisted above the gallery on several greens. It read, simply: Wales 6, Australia 63.

Baker-Finch took the breath away with his electrifying start, the sort of performance we were expecting from Ballesteros. Everything he touched seemed to turn to gold and when a putt of 12 feet, his longest, went in at the 7th to take him to nine under par it was all over bar the stamped down the 18th.

Darcy briefly made a dart at him, finally ruined by a seven at the 15th. The crucial hole was the 17th. Harwood needed a birdie four at least, probably an eagle (it is that vulnerable). But Baker-Finch, standing on the fairway, saw his countryman miss the green for a five, and knew that he would be the new champion.

Lewis gets another chance at the expense of Reeve

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GIVEN the confusions of the past week, the England selectors could perhaps be pardoned for shelving their intended reforms for this week's fourth Test match at Edgbaston. To a degree, that is what they have done in the party of 12 announced yesterday.

The single addition to the team vanquished at Trent Bridge, however, falls into the exclamation-mark category. Chris Lewis, having withdrawn from three of the last four Tests for which he was selected, is fortunate to find himself back in the fold so soon, ahead of Dermot Reeve and Ian Botham.

Lewis is a considerable natural talent of such potential that Bob Simpson, his manager at Leicestershire, has said he can be the finest all-round cricketer in the land. Thus far, however, his international progress has been repeatedly tripped up on a variety of ailments which have defied many attempts at diagnosis. He says that despite official bulletins to the contrary, he has never had a migraine in his life; he cannot deny, though, that he has given the

England management some chronic headaches. England had no option but to ignore him for a while, following the dizziness which caused him to pull out of the first Test at Headingley, and his country form, though respectable, has not demanded attention.

This week, Lewis must expect to hear that he has unfairly kept out one man whose Test career has not started and another whose might at last has finished.

Reeve, having been in the squad but not the XI at Trent, will at least make his Test debut, presumably with Atherton dropping to three, ahead of Hick and Lamb.



Lewis: lucky recall

Waldron refuses to resign

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BRIDGE may be bemused at not even making the squad on his home ground, where he takes so many wickets. As for Botham, the spring renaissance seems a glory of the past.

Lewis's route into the side is likely to be at the expense of Illingworth, who is lucky to be the chosen spin bowler, but the decision to retain the same top six does not mean they will bat in the same order. If Robin Smith is fit, which seems doubtful as he had yet more discomfort from his finger injury on Saturday, he could bat at No. 3. If he is not, Hugh Morris, on standby once again, will at least make his Test debut, presumably with Atherton dropping to three, ahead of Hick and Lamb.

England party

G A Gough (Essex, capt) 88
M A Adair (Leeds) 88
G A Hick (Worce) 88
J L Laker (Leeds) 88
M R Ramprakash (Middlesex) 88
R A Smith (Nottinghamshire) 88
C C Barnett (Gloucestershire) 88
D R Pringle (Essex) 88
P A J DeFreitas (Leeds) 88
R K Wainwright (Worce) 88
D V Lawrence (Gloucestershire) 88

Cowan's burst, page 34

Wales routed, page 31

Paul Warwick dies at Oulton Park

By STEPHEN SLATER

PAUL Warwick, one of Britain's most promising racing drivers, died yesterday after a crash at Oulton Park, Cheshire. Warwick, aged 22, was a member of Nigel Mansell's Formula 3000 team and the younger brother of Derek Warwick, the Jaguar sports car driver and former grand prix driver.

Warwick was leading on the 24th lap of the Oulton Park Gold Cup — the fifth round of the British Formula 3000 Championship — when his Renault car left the track at the 140mph Knickerbrook curve, the fastest corner of the circuit.

After hitting the barriers, the car burst into flames. The fire was quickly extinguished by the track marshals, with the assistance of the second-place driver, R. Ward Dean, who had stopped. Warwick was removed from the car, given first aid and transferred by a Mercedes-Benz helicopter to North Staffordshire Infirmary, Stoke on Trent where he died about an hour later.

The cause of the accident was uncertain, but eye-witnesses, including a television

cameraman who was struck by debris, said that one of the front wheels left the ground. Whether this was due to a front suspension failure or a punctured rear tyre could not be ascertained because of the extensive damage to the car, which broke into two pieces. Warwick's loss robs British motorsport of one of its brightest rising stars. He had started in junior stock car racing at the age of 12, moved into the senior stock car category and won 27 races in two years before moving on to single-seater racing in Formula Ford cars in 1986. He won his debut race and both the junior championships in that year before moving on to more powerful Formula Ford 2000 and Formula Three cars.

He first sampled the 450bhp Formula 3000 cars in 1990, but he showed his true talent when he moved to the Mansell Madgwick team at the start of this year, and winning the first four races of the season. He was declared the winner at Oulton Park yesterday when the race was stopped.

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